

STAN LEE Presents

HOWARD THE DUCK

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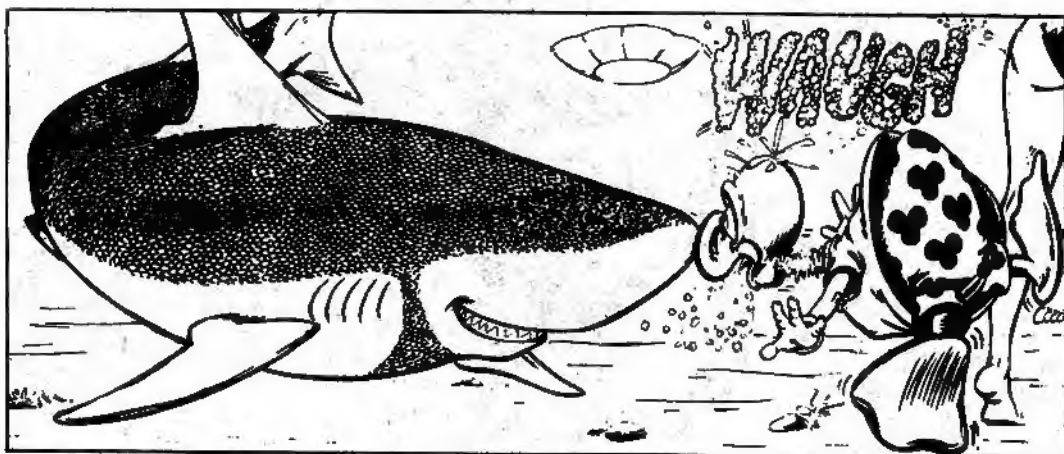
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It is a time of turbulence. The city streets are full of violence. Governments flounder. Societies crumble. Civilization itself seems to be one long, agonized scream.

It is time for MOON KNIGHT.



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HOWARD THE DUCK



POUND



BEING A MARVEL CHARACTER AIN'T ALL **GROUPIES** AND **TICKER-TAPE PARADES** Y'KNOW.... IT CAN GET AWFUL DEPRESSING WHEN YOU'RE THREE-FEET-TALL AND THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT **SUPER-POWERS**...

LIFE WOULD BE A PICNIC IF I WAS A **SORCERER SUPREME!** EVERY TIME SOME **LOBOTOMY SCAR** SAID "HEY-Y... YOU'RE A **DUCK!**" I COULD TURN HIM INTO A **KUMQUAT**...

AND AS LONG AS I'VE TAKEN UP PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, HOWZABOUT SOME **GAMMA RAYS** TO MAKE ME ORANGE AND LUMPY...

...OR GREEN AND STUPID...

BULKY DUCK KILL!!

AH, WELL... LIKE THE MAN SAID "I NEVER PROMISED YOU A **BAXTER BUILDING**"

MOTHER?

AND THINGS COULD ALWAYS BE WORSE -- I COULD HAVE ENDED UP GREEN, STUPID AND MOSS-COVERED!

BESIDES WHAT I LACK IN HEIGHT AND SUPER POWERS I MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR...

...IN **FRINGE BENEFITS**...

OH, **DUCKY!**

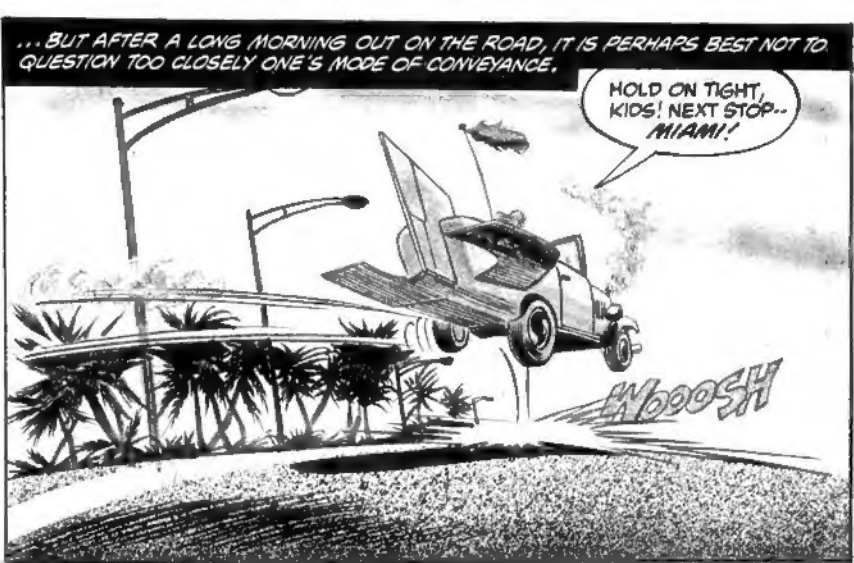
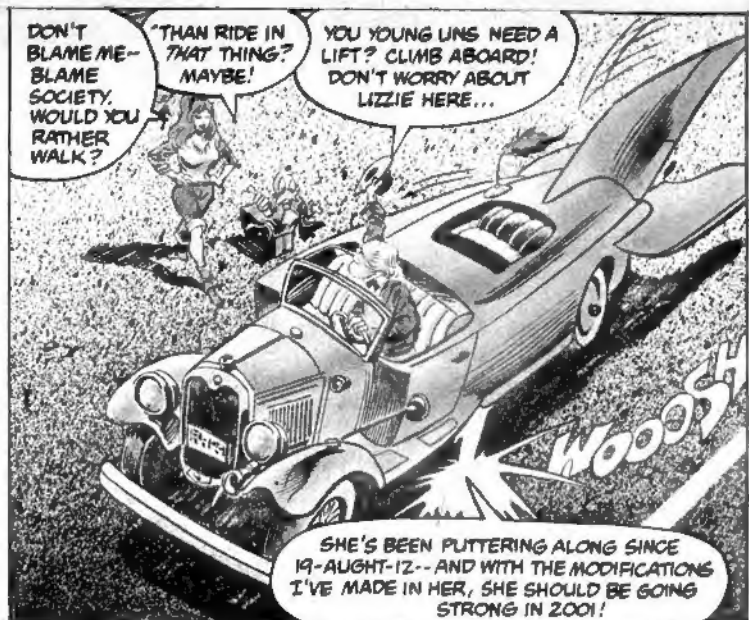
THAT'S THE NICEST THING YOU EVER SAID TO ME...

HOWARD AND BEV TRAPPED IN THE INSANE ENVIRONMENT OF...

THE GREY PANTHER







IT IS THE SMOOTHEST RIDE OUR DAUNTLESS DUO HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED. HOVER-GLIDING ABOVE THE PITS AND POTHOLES OF THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY, THE FLYING FLIVVER SOON BRINGS HOWARD AND BEV TO THEIR DESTINATION.





AS THE NUMBER OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN SOCIETY INCREASES, THEY FIND THAT THEY HAVE LESS IN COMMON WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION, AND MORE IN COMMON WITH EACH OTHER.

HERE AT WAKE NO MORE THEY ARE MADE TO FEEL AT HOME--THEIR EVERY NEED AND COMFORT CATERED TO.

AN' WHAT ARE OUR JOBS? TA MOTHER THOSE OLD ENOUGH TA BE OUR GRANDMOTHERS?

PLEASE FORGIVE HOWARD, DR. ATRIC. HE'S NOT ANTI-OLD PEOPLE--HE'S INDISCRIMINATELY NASTY TO EVERYBODY.

A NUEROSIS OF THE YOUNG, MS. SWITZLER. AS ONE ADVANCES IN YEARS AND WISDOM--

--ONE FINDS THAT ONE HAS OUTGROWN SUCH PETTY VINDICTIVENESS.



LOOKS LIKE SOME OF YOUR OLDSTERS STILL GOT SOME OUTGROWIN' TA DO, ATRIC.



A SEA OF SMILING FACES SURROUNDS HOWARD--AND EVIL INTENT SUCCESSFULLY MASKED BEHIND A FACADE OF WRINKLES.

LATER, AFTER HOWARD AND BEV HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THEIR DUTIES...

IT SURE WAS NICE OF DR. ATRIC TO OVERLOOK YOUR RUDE REMARKS AND HIRE US ANYWAY.

HE DIDN'T EVEN SEEM TO CARE THAT THE CLOSEST I EVER CAME TO NURSING WAS WHEN I HAD TO GIVE MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION TO AN ART STUDENT WHO WAS OVERCOME BY THE SIGHT OF ME MODELLING IN THE NUDE.

SOME JOB-- CLEANIN' UP AFTER DODDERIN' ANCIENT HAIRLESS APES AN' WHEELIN' 'EM IN TA SUPPER!

HOWARD! I-I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR YOU SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT! I'M REALLY FREAKED OUT!

YOU GO AHEAD-- BUT IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO STAY WITH SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO LEASE HIMSELF OUT AS A ONE-DUCK SIDESHOW, FORGET IT!

IT'S WORK, HOWARD! IT PAYS!

IT'S DEGRADIN' IS WHAT IT IS! I SHOULDN'T EVEN HAVE TA WORK, TOOTS!

I'M DIFFERENT! I COULD PROBABLY MAKE A FORTUNE CAPITALIZIN' ON THE FACT THAT I'M A TALKIN' DUCK!

WELL, IT WAS JUST AN IDEA--

A LOUSY ONE! COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO GET TO WORK.

ARE YOU THE NEW DAY-NURSE? WHEEL ME INSIDE!

I CAN'T MISS "LOVE OF LIFE"!

CERTAINLY, MA'AM I ALWAYS LIKED THAT ONE MYSELF.

SINCE RETURIN' FROM DUCKWORLD, I'M DISCOVERIN' SOME FACETS OF BEV I AIN'T SURE I LIKE

SHE ALWAYS SEEMED SO UNDER-STANDIN' OF MY PROBLEMS.

I THOUGHT TAKIN' HER BACK TO MY WORLD WITH ME--WHERE SHE'D BE TRAPPED IN A WORLD SHE NEVER MADE-- WOULD INCREASE HER AWARENESS OF HOW I FEEL.

INSTEAD, SHE SEEMS TA HAVE LESS PATIENCE WITH ME THAN BEFORE!

KLONK

WAAK



GIVE AN OLD MAN A HAND UP THIS HERE DIVING BOARD, WON'T YOU, YOUNG FELLER?

IT'S STARTIN'! AWRIGHT-- I'M STUCK WITH THIS JOB, SO I MIGHT AS WELL DO IT!

I DON'T SEE WHAT YA NEED ME FOR THOUGH, POPS --YA SEEM TA BE DOIN' JUST FINE ON YER OWN.



I CAN MANAGE THE LADDER-- IT'S ON THE BOARD THAT I'M A LITTLE SHAKY.

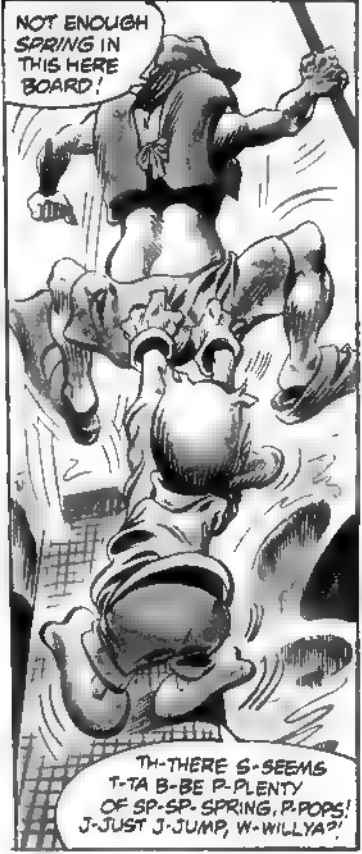
YEAH, WELL TAKE IT EASY! I AIN'T TOO FOND OF HEIGHTS MYSELF!

CRIPES! THERE'S WATER DOWN THERE!

OH, LOOK-- THAT NEW AIDE IS TEACHING MR SAMSON TO DIVE!

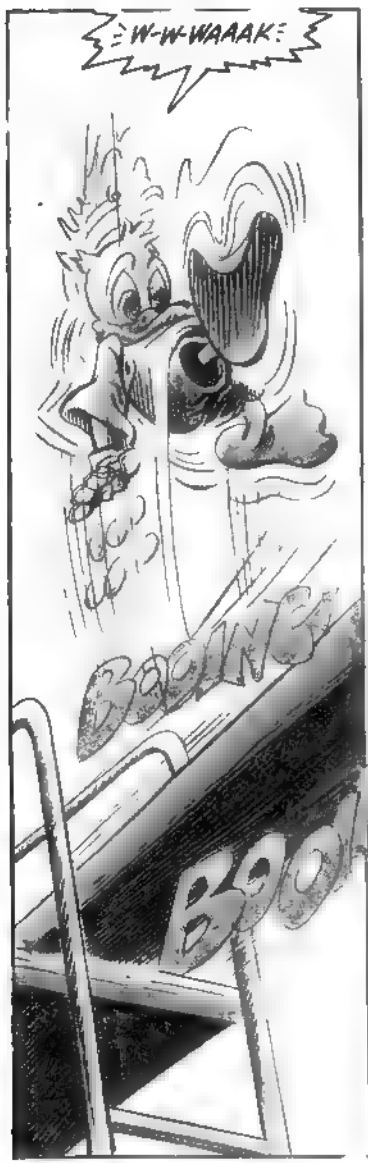
THE OLD FOOL! HE'LL BREAK HIS NECK!

OH, DO YOU THINK SO?



NOT ENOUGH SPRING IN THIS HERE BOARD!

TH-THERE S-SEEMS T-TA B-BE P-PLENTY OF SP-SP- SPRING, P-POPS! J-JUST J-JUMP, W-WILLYA?!



W-W-WAAAK!

BOONG

BOONG



I THINK I GOT THE SPRINGING PART DOWN PAT, YOUNG FELLER. I'LL TRY THE DIVE ITSELF TOMORROW.

YA MEAN YA DIDN'T EVEN--?

G-GLABHH! I HATE CHLORINATED WATER!!



HERE, SONNY-- GRAB A LINE!

GL-GLUK!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DEARIE?

HE'S MADE A MESS OF YOUR KNITTING, ROSE

HOWARD'S WATERLOGGED RESPONSE IS UNPRINTABLE.

MEANWHILE, BEV ATTENDS TO HER DUTIES WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE WAKE NO MORE NURSING HOME...



NOW, MRS. ROSENZWEIG-- DR. ATRIC SAYS IT'S TIME FOR YOUR BEAUTY SLEEP.

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY-- YOU WAKE UP LOOKING LIKE YOU!



HAVE YOU TRIED VITAMIN E TREATMENTS, MRS. ROSENZWEIG? I UNDERSTAND THEY'RE REMARKABLY RESTORATIVE.

UNbeknownst TO THE BEAUTIFUL BEVERLY...



...HER MINISTRATIONS ARE BEING OBSERVED THROUGH A TWO-WAY MIRROR!

MISS SWITZLER ALREADY PRESUMES TO PRESCRIBE TO MY PATIENTS! THOUGH BETTER THAN SOME OF THE NURSES I'VE HIRED--

-- SHE SUFFERS FROM THAT COMMON CONDITION OF THE YOUNG... THE MISTAKEN APPREHENSION THAT SHE KNOWS BETTER THAN HER ELDERS!



WE MUST DISABUSE HER OF THE NOTION THAT TO BE OLD IS TO BE HELPLESS-- RELIANT ON THE YOUNG!

RISE, MY FELLOW GERIATRICS: RISE AND SHOUT THE SLOGAN OF OUR SECRET SOCIETY!

2-4-6-8 WHO WILL WE EMANCIPATE?-- US!

CORRECT! THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE OLD TO THROW OFF THE STIGMATA OF SENILITY THAT HAS MADE US SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS OF THE VERY NATION WE HELPED TO FORGE!



NO ONE WILL FREE US IF WE DO NOT FREE OURSELVES!

IT IS WE WHO MUST SEIZE THE TIME!

AT A SINGLE GESTURE FROM THE GRIM DIRECTOR OF THE WAKE NO MORE NURSING HOME, A STRANGE PLASTIC SCULPTURE RISES FROM ITS RESTING PLACE WITHIN A HIDDEN UNDERGROUND SILO...



NO! YOUR BROTHER GREET'S YOU, O ANCIENT SYMBOL OF MILITANCY!

I NOW DON MY STALKING COSTUME, JUST BACK FROM THE CLEANERS!



TONIGHT, THE GREY PANTHER WILL TEACH OUR YOUNG FRIENDS THAT BEING OLD MEANS NEVER HAVING TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY!

HOURS LATER, AFTER THEIR DUTIES OF THE DAY ARE DONE, A TIRED BEVERLY AND A DISGRUNTLED HOWARD THE DUCK GNAW THEIR BONES OF CONTENTION POOLSIDE...



ALL RIGHT, DUCKY-- WHAT'S THE MATTER, NOW?

WHAT AIN'T THE MATTER, TOOTS?

ALL DAY LONG I BEEN PINCHED, POKED, PECKED, AN PAWED AT BY CORONARY CASES DREAMIN' OF TASTIN' ROAST DUCK JUST ONCE MORE BEFORE THEY DIE!



SO WHAT'S YOUR SOLUTION? WE'RE BROKE. WITHOUT THIS JOB, WE DON'T EAT.

I AIN'T GOT ANY ANSWERS, BEV! ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'VE HAD IT, AN' I WANT OUT!



BEV, ARE YOU GONNA GIT STILL AN' LISTEN, OR WHAT?

WHEEE!

I-I DON'T THINK I HAVE ANY CHOICE IN THE MATTER, DUCKY-- I'M BEING CHAIR-NAPPED!



WITHOUT FURTHER ADD, THE GREY PANTHER AND HIS COHORTS DRAG THE BEWILDERED BEVERLY AWAY INTO THE NIGHT--



--LEAVING
THE DUCK
TO DROWN!

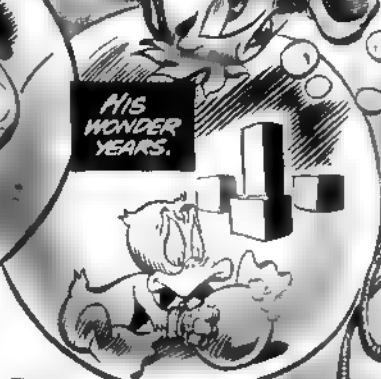
IT IS SAID THAT, IN THE LAST FEW MOMENTS OF LIFE, ONE'S LIFE FLASHES BEFORE ONE'S EYES! IF THAT IS THE CASE, THEN HOWARD THE DUCK FEELS CHEATED... HIS FLASHBACK LASTS EVEN LESS TIME THAN A NEW SEASON OF NETWORK TELEVISION SHOWS!

WH-WHAT A
WAY TA GO OUT--
WATCHIN' NUTHIN'
BUT RERUNS!

HIS
BIRTH.



HIS
WONDER
YEARS.



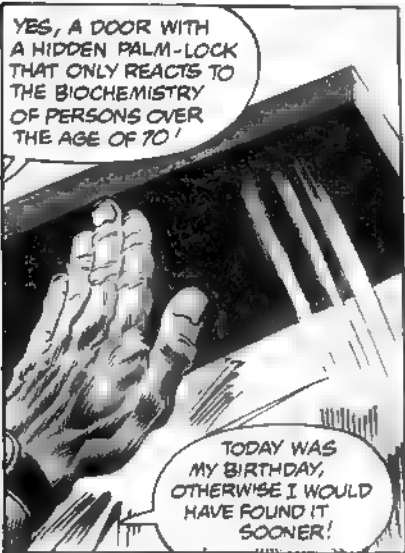
HIS
ARRIVAL
ON EARTH.

HIS
DISAPPEARANCE
FROM DUCKWORLD.



BEV!



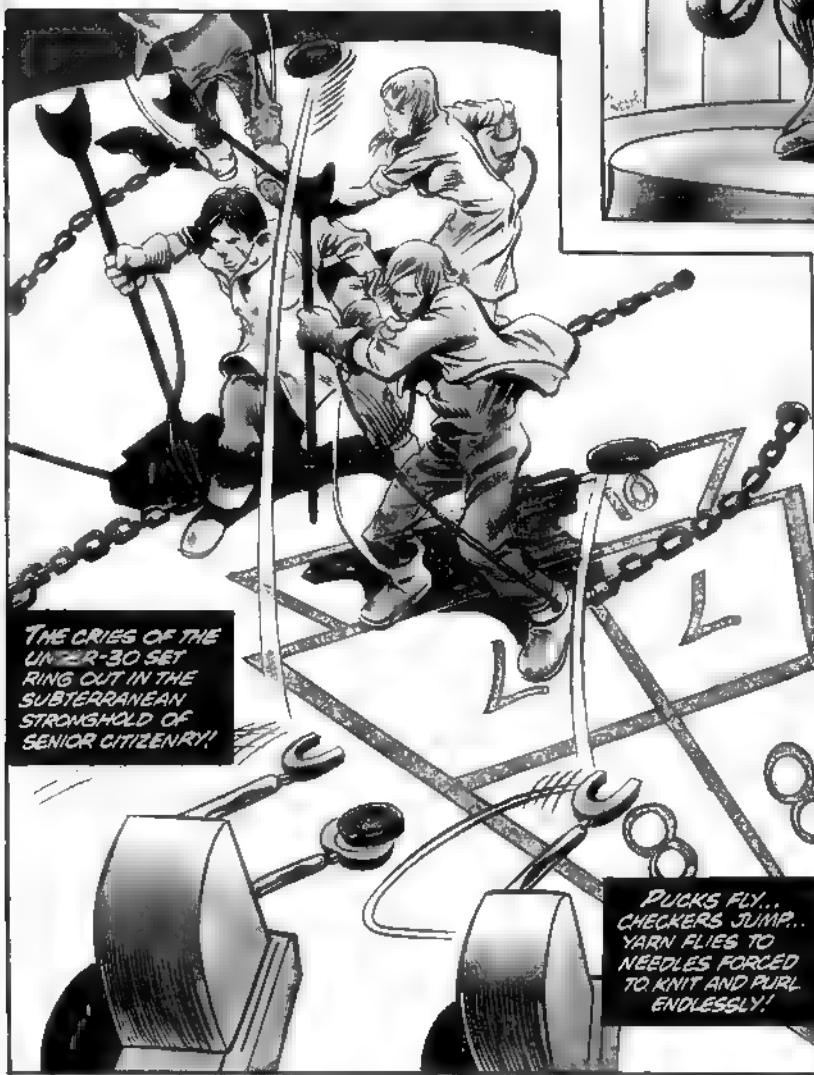






YET YOU WOULD DOOM US TO WORK OUT THE REMAINDER OF OUR LIVES IN SELESS PURSUITS SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU YOUNGSTERS THINK THE OLD TO BE INCAPABLE OF MORE IMPORTANT TASKS!

IF THEY ANTAGONIZE YOU, TILLIE, MAKE THEM PLAY CHECKERS FOR A FEW HOURS!



THE CRIES OF THE UNDER-30 SET RING OUT IN THE SUBTERRANEAN STRONGHOLD OF SENIOR CITIZENRY!



YOU SEE, MY YOUNG FRIENDS? THE OLD HARBOR A GREAT RESENTMENT AGAINST YOU FOR SHUTTING THEM AWAY-- OUT OF SIGHT-- IN PLACES LIKE WAKE NO MORE!

I HAVE TAPPED THAT ANGER-- CONVINCED THEM OF THEIR USEFULNESS-- OF THEIR POWER-- CHANNELLED IT INTO A DESIRE FOR REVENGE!

ONCE OUR POWER HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATED-- THE OLD SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH... OR AT LEAST MIAMI!

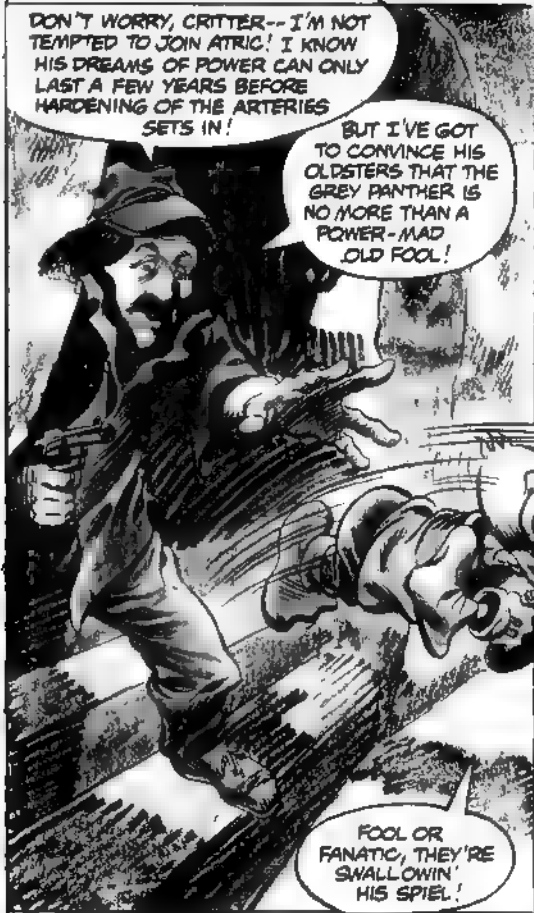
SPEED UP THE SHUFFLEBOARD SERVERS! INCREASE YARN-OUTFLOW ON THE KNITTING MACHINES!



I GOT TO HAND IT TO ATRIC-- HE TOOK THE RIGHT APPROACH IN APPEALING TO THE VENGEANCE INSTINCTS OF HIS OLDSTERS! THERE'S BEEN TIMES I'D HAVE LIKED TO CONDEMN SOME OF OUR JUNIOR AGENTS TO SIMILAR TORTURES!

TRY AN' REMEMBER WHICH SIDE YER ON, SAMSON-- LEASTWAYS, LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TA GRAB BEV AN' GET HER OUTTA HERE!

PUCKS FLY... CHECKERS JUMP... YARN FLIES TO NEEDLES FORCED TO KNIT AND PURL ENDLESSLY!



DON'T WORRY, CRITTER-- I'M NOT TEMPTED TO JOIN ATRIC! I KNOW HIS DREAMS OF POWER CAN ONLY LAST A FEW YEARS BEFORE HARDENING OF THE ARTERIES SETS IN!

BUT I'VE GOT TO CONVINCE HIS OLDSTERS THAT THE GREY PANTHER IS NO MORE THAN A POWER-MAD OLD FOOL!

FOOL OR FANATIC, THEY'RE SWALLOWIN' HIS SPIEL!



THE ONLY WAY TA END THIS GERIATRIC RACKET IS TO CONFRONT THEIR HOARY HEADMAN!

SO, FOWL, YOU SURVIVED DROWNING?

BY THE SKIN OF MY BEAK! I AIN'T GONNA MINCE WORDS WITH YA, ATRIC! RELEASE MY BABY, OR...

OR WHAT? FACE YOUR FOWL FURY?



FORGIVE ME FOR NOT TREMBLING IN MY BOOTS, MY FEATHERED FRIEND--BUT I THINK YOU HAVE SEVERELY UNDERESTIMATED THE PRIDE AND POWER OF... THE GREY PANTHER!

AH, I HEAR DRUMROLLS EVERY TIME I SPEAK THAT NAME!

WHO AM I, YOU ASK? I AM THE SAVIOR OF THE SENILE-- THE AVENGER OF THE ARTHRITIC!



WHILE MY PANTHER PRONESS (COPYRIGHT: PAT. PEND.) HAS SPARED ME THE DEBILITATING AFFECTS OF OLD AGE, I HAVE DEVOTED MY REMAINING YEARS TO AIDING THOSE OLDSTERS LESS FORTUNATE THAN MYSELF!

WHAT THEY CAN NO LONGER DO NATURALLY IS NOW DONE FOR THEM BY MY WONDROUS WALDOES, MY MIRACULOUS MACHINES!



WAAK! RRRRR

THE WHIRRING WALDO GRASPS HOLD OF HOWARD'S T-SHIRT BEFORE THE PAZED DRAKE CAN REACT--

...AND
HURLS
HIM INTO
THE MIDST
OF
MADNESS!

OH! MY
KNITTING!

GLNMMFF!

HOWARD!!

MMRRMMFF!

BUMP

THUD

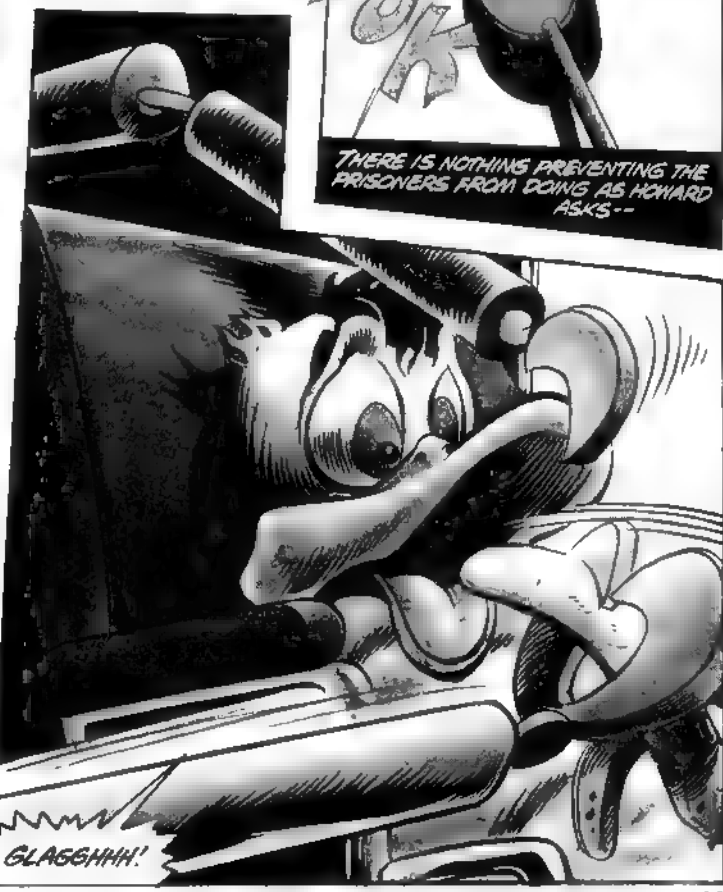
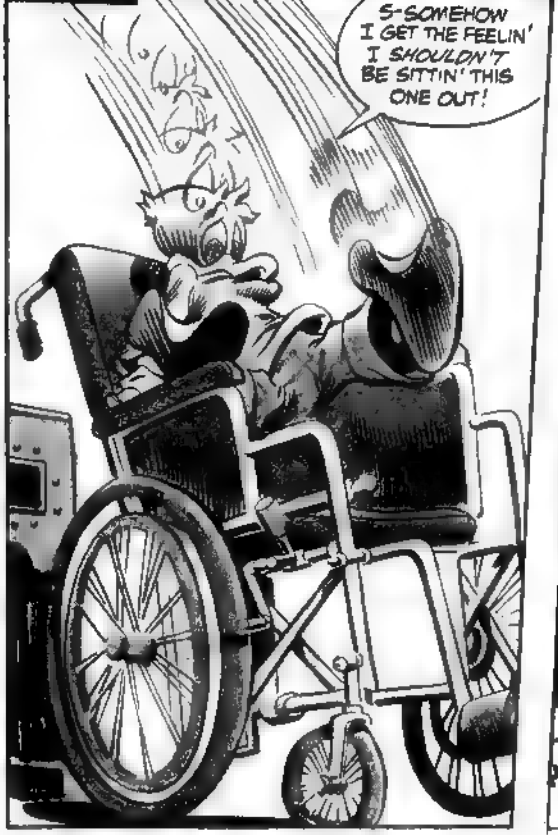
PASSED THE LENGTH OF THE
ROCKING LINE, HOWARD IS AT
LAST DEPOSITED ON YET ANOTHER
PLANE OF PERIL!

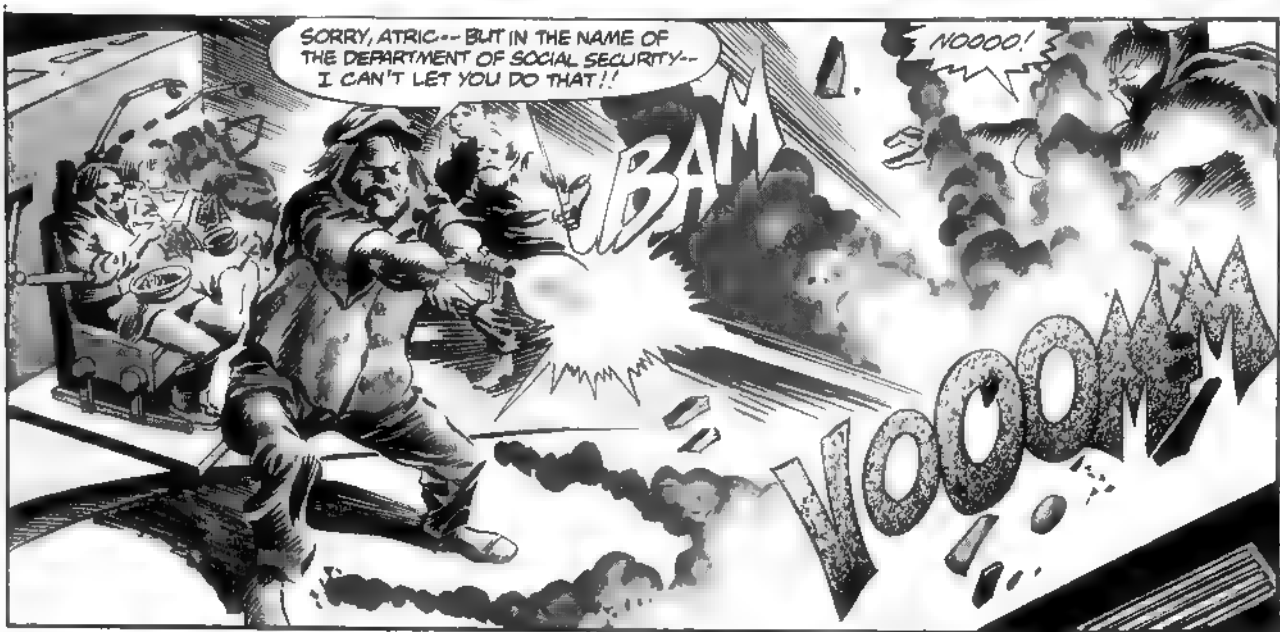
WE'RE SORRY, LITTLE GUY, BUT THESE DOMINATION BOOTS AND GLOVES THAT ATRIC'S MADE US WEAR...

...FORCE US TO PLAY SHUFFLEBOARD ENDLESSLY, SERVING PUCKS AT YOU AT SUPER SPEEDS!



--BUT THEIR SHOT LANDS HIM IN YET ANOTHER HOTSEAT!





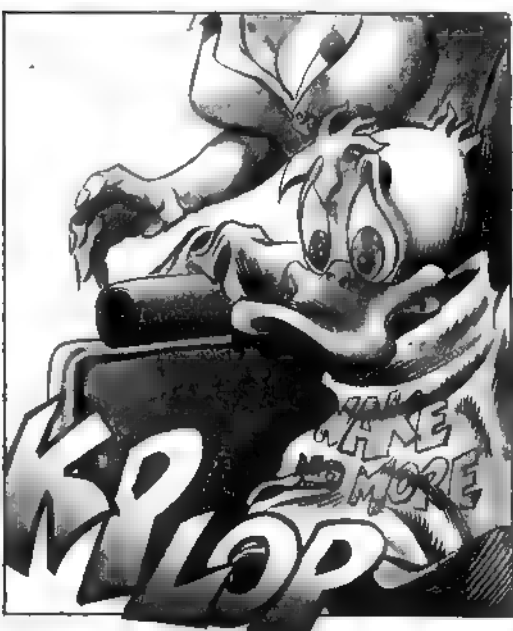
YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DEATH OF MY DREAM, DRAKE!

NOW-- YOU AND YOUR LOVELY LADY SHALL PAY!

HOWARD, YOU'VE GOT TO GET UP! THE GREY PANTHER'S PLANNING TO COOK YOUR GOOSE!

AN APPROPRIATE METAPHOR, MY DEAR...
UARRK! PAIN--IN MY CHEST!

IT CANNOT BE! THE GREY PANTHER CANNOT SUCCEED TO SO COMMON-PLACE AN ENDING AS... A HEART ATTACK!



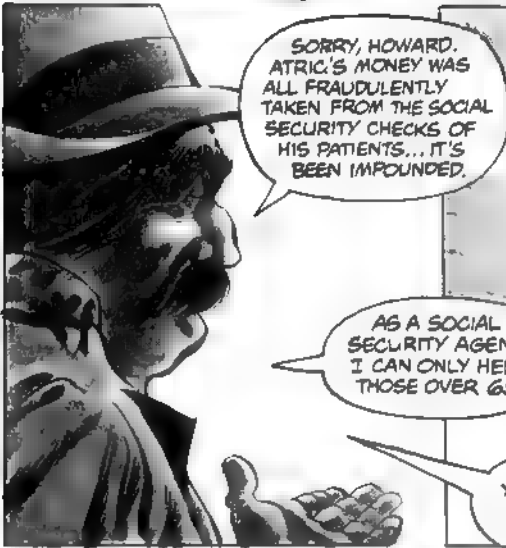
LATER...

ATRIC WILL RECOVER... IN PRISON. I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU, ON BEHALF OF THE DEPT. OF SOCIAL SECURITY, FOR HELPING US TO CRACK THIS CASE.

NO THANKS ARE NECESSARY, MR SAMSON

LIKE FUN THEY AIN'T! WE TOOK THIS JOB 'CAUSE WE NEEDED DOUGH!

HOW 'BOUT "THANKIN'" US BY FORKIN' OVER THE WAGES ATRIC OWED US?



SORRY, HOWARD. ATRIC'S MONEY WAS ALL FRAUDULENTLY TAKEN FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS OF HIS PATIENTS... IT'S BEEN IMPOUNDED.

AS A SOCIAL SECURITY AGENT, I CAN ONLY HELP THOSE OVER 65!

IN YOUR CASE, I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM AN UNDERCOVER UN-EMPLOYMENT AGENT!



WAAUGH!!



MARVEL COMICS GROUP
TRAPPED IN A WORLD HE NEVER MADE!

HOWARD
THE DUCK
25¢
1 JAN 1984

BECAUSE YOU
DEMANDED IT...
THE FABULOUS
FIRST ISSUE
OF MARVEL'S MOST
SENSATIONAL NEW
SUPER-STAR!



HOW THE DUCK GOT HIS PANTS

Steven Grant



Life has the funniest way of dropping bricks on you. It waits until things are going well — until you've paid off all your debts, or lost that 10 lbs. you'd worked for six months to lose, or until you've finally achieved your lifelong dream of completing your SPIDER-MAN collection — and then

WHAM! The brick. It happens to everyone. Even comic book characters. The brick that hit *Howard the Duck* began, "Dear Sirs..."

THE DUCK THAT DISNEY BUILT

The brick that rearranged Howard's face was picked up and hurled by Walt Disney Productions.

In 1934, Donald Duck made his debut in an animated cartoon, *THE WISE LITTLE HEN*, one in Walt Disney's "Silly Symphony" series. As Carl Barks describes him in the 1978 book, *DONALD DUCK*:

"In that film, Donald was introduced to the world, and, strangely enough, in that early period of his development he was more duck than human. He was a no-good hippie duck who lived ingloriously on a half-sunken houseboat in a pond."

It wasn't long before Donald left the houseboat to roam the world, mostly in the company of Disney's most famous character, Mickey Mouse. The mouse, in his first appearances, was an ill-mannered, self-centered, tricksterish little beast. Time, and quick popularity, had changed him into a fine, upstanding, and finally cute character — and his discarded venom was quickly injected into Donald (who has since undergone a similar, if less severe, mellow-

Howard the Duck hatched as a one-shot character in the *Man-Thing* series in *FEAR* #19. That was in 1973. Then, scripter Steve Gerber was running a storyline that called for weirdness like barbarian warriors emerging from jars of peanut butter. Then artist Val Mayerik responded with the weirdest thing he could imagine: a talking, cigar-chomping, gun-toting duck with the demeanor of Little Caesar. By the next episode, Gerber and Mayerik had done the logical thing. The duck, who had by this time acquired the name of Howard,

took a wrong step off an extra-dimensional staircase and plunged into oblivion forever.

The readers would have none of it. Within a matter of months, Howard was back, first in his own series and then in his own title, and virtually overnight he had become the third most popular duck in history.

A few months later, Howard had crept into the #2 slot — and moving up fast on #1. And that is where the trouble began.

ing). By the late 1930s, Donald Duck had taken the world by storm, becoming — for a time, at least — more popular even than the mouse. Appearing in cartoons, comic strips, comicbooks, and numerous merchandised products, Donald not only created an audience but a brood as well, and his life was soon filled with a flock of ducks: nephews Huey, Dewey and Louie; girlfriend Daisy Duck; Uncle Scrooge McDuck; cousin Gladstone Gander; Grandma Duck; scientist Ludwig Von Drake; and numerous other relatives, friends and enemies. The age of the duck had arrived, and, except for Warner Bros. aberrant mallard, *Daffy*, Walt Disney had cornered the market.

A MILLION STORIES IN THE NAKED CITY

It was inevitable, then, that Walt Disney Productions and the Marvel Comics Group would come into conflict on the subject of *Howard the Duck*. There were certain similarities between the characters — they were both ducks, after all, and it might have been possible for someone to mistake Howard's blue suitcoat and hat for Donald's sailor suit — and there were distinct differences. Most notably, Donald lives in the anthropomorphic world of Duckburg and deals almost solely with its animal inhabitants; Howard is the only walking,

talking intelligent duck on a world populated by human beings (and frequently prompts the awe-stricken response, "You... you're a duck.") Clearly, two different worlds.

How, then, did their worlds collide?

In 1978, changes slowly became apparent in Howard's appearance. Of themselves, the changes would have gone unmentioned, had certain parties in California not leaked to the fan press that the changes were Disney's doing. Suddenly, speculations about the reasons became whispered rumors, and the rumors took on the appearance of fact. Several stories were concocted:

Story #1: With the appearance of the *Howard the Duck* newspaper strip, feature editors across the country replaced the long-running *Donald Duck* with it, since it is bad editorial policy to have two similar comic strips in the same section. Threatened with the loss of outlets for *Donald Duck* and the possible cancellation of the feature, Disney — which, up to this point, had tolerated the presence of a *HOWARD THE DUCK* comicbook — fought back.

Story #2: Disney's licensees overseas suddenly saw their markets threatened when competitors issued the adventures of *HOWARD THE DUCK*. (In countries where comics are translated into languages other than English the word "duck" is synonymous with "Donald Duck," and has been for more than 40 years. Simply by virtue of the word "duck" in his name, Howard became what no comics character had been before, a threat to Donald Duck.) The overseas licensees took their grievances to Disney, who in turn contacted Marvel.

Story #3: As *Howard the Duck* gained



popular success in the comicbooks, a comic strip promised to bring him to an even wider audience, and various merchandising and film deals were pending. Someone in Marvel's legal department made a courtesy call to Disney to make sure that no legal infringements would occur. Made aware of Howard the Duck's existence, Disney's lawyers took steps to ensure his dissimilarity from Donald Duck.

To anyone thinking about it logically for a few minutes, stories #1 and 3 bear the stamp of the ludicrous. Story #1 can be disregarded for a simple reason: it is virtually impossible to challenge the popularity of Donald Duck. A phenomenally popular character, Donald has survived the vagaries of public tastes for more years than most of us have been alive; there is the apocryphal story that the Third Reich itself was rocked by rioting and discontent when Hitler banned Donald Duck cartoons because Donald had parodied der Fuhrer himself. Apparently the world has an insatiable appetite for Donald; while a character could join him at the pinnacle of popularity, it is unthinkable that one could replace him.

The third story is harder to disregard, but the logic of it also collapses under scrutiny: while there are surface similarities, Howard the Duck is patently *not* a steal from Donald Duck, and their backgrounds, lifestyles, modi operandi, and milieus are completely different. There is virtually no overlapping save for physical characteristics — and the word “duck,” being a generic term, cannot be trademarked, so no legal infractions are possible there.

As it turns out, story #2 was the true one

Donald Duck and Howard The Duck finally locked beaks — but who could have suspected that the battle would revolve around a pair of pants?

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

It was not mere pique that prompted the Disney Organization to investigate Howard The Duck. They had a long history of having to defend themselves against imitators and simulators of Donald, and they could not have known at the beginning that Howard was another sort of bird altogether. Disney had already stopped the *Realist* magazine, Paul Krassner and Wally Wood from publishing a centerfold featuring Disney characters in “realistic” poses and situations. More recently, they were forced to halt the production of Donald Duck paintings that were appearing in fan markets without any trademark or copyright notices. A group of underground cartoonists published a magazine called *AIR PIRATES FUNNIES*, in which they produced their own versions of Disney creations — an act that aroused the ire of the Disney organization. The case went to court; The Air Pirates — as the defendants were called — claimed parody, Disney

claimed copyright infringement, trademark infringement, unfair competition and trade disparagement. Though Disney won, to the tune of \$190,000, they later withdrew damage claims in return for a promise that The Air Pirates would not do more such “parodies.” Obviously, they had made their point; they did not want to destroy anyone, but simply keep their own toes from being stepped on.

In this light, it's easy to see why Disney was concerned — albeit unfoundedly — about Howard.

And it's easy to see why Marvel and Disney each saw it in their best interests to differentiate the ducks.

DUCK'S LAW

“...WHEREAS, the image and name of DONALD DUCK are associated in the eyes of the public with Disney; and

“WHEREAS, over the years the public has come to identify a particular type of cartoon character and a particular style of background rendition as being associated with Disney, and, in particular, with portrayals of DONALD DUCK, such cartoon characters generally being stylized representations of animals have human characteristics, and such backgrounds being characterized by simplicity and lack of realistic detail, generally creating the impression of a fantasy world; and...



black bowtie. By 1969, the standard, familiar form of Donald — shortened, squared beak; enlarged brow and eyes; trimmed figure; humanlike hands and flat, wide, ducklike feet; navy-blue or black sailor suit with red bowtie and yellow trim — had been in use for decades.

Howard, on the other hand, had been in existence less than 10 years — and had gone through several changes in that time. No amount of change or experiment, it seemed, could hinder his growing popularity.

“...WHEREAS, HOWARD THE DUCK is typically portrayed in conjunction with (a) cartoon characters which are representations of humans and (b) background renditions which are characterized by the use of realistic detail, generally creating the impression of the real world...”

This was the crux of the matter: how to keep those two worlds from blending, and how to prevent a confusion between Donald and Howard in the public eye.

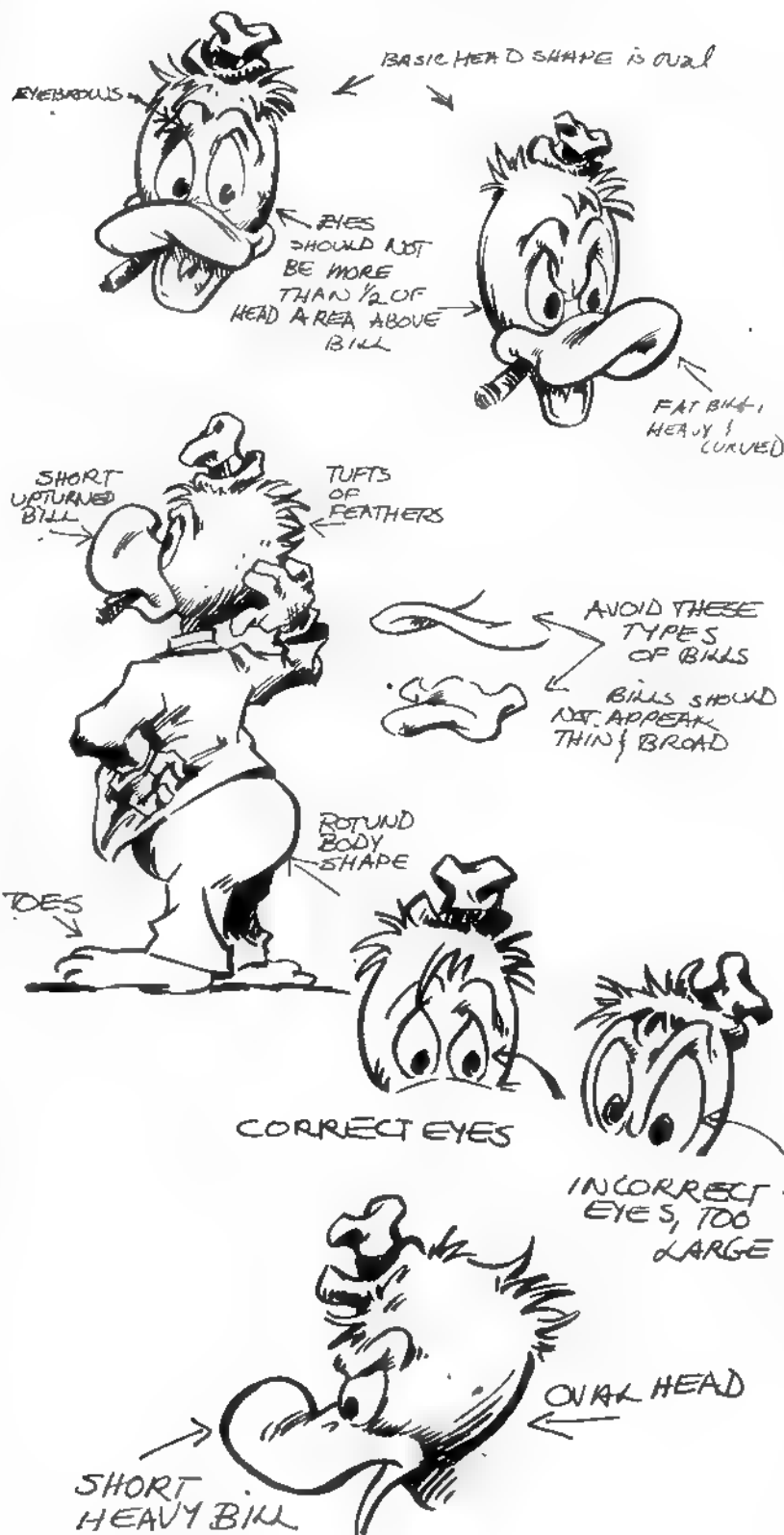
The solution was as simple as Donald Duck's backgrounds. change Howard the Duck

Why Howard? Changing Donald was impractical, and it would have harmed Disney much more than changing Howard would harm Marvel. Donald was a solidly established character, universally identifiable by his features and his navy-blue sailor suit. Howard, the contender, was equally identifiable, if not as widespread — but Howard's identity rested more on his unique, modern personality than on any set of clothes. Being the more malleable mallard, he was the easiest to remold

Besides, Donald had already gone through his changes. At his introduction, Donald Duck possessed elongated neck and elongated beak, along with a squat head, tiny tailfeathers, and a distinctly tubby body. The sailor suit was light blue, with red or yellow trim and a



HOWARD THE DUCK MODEL SHEET



PRE-E-SENTING — THREE YEARS IN THE MAKING — THE ALL- NEW HOWARD THE DUCK.

Negotiations between the two companies began in mid-1977, with a proposed agreement that covered a mere four pages. By the time the media magazines came to a final consensus, it was 1980, and the agreement had doubled in length. In that agreement was spelled out the Howard to be:

The "old" Howard The Duck — as portrayed in HOWARD THE DUCK #1-19 — would disappear, to nevermore be seen in comics, newspaper strips, TV, movies, books, etc., and would be replaced in reprint (except for a certain amount of "historical" reprinting) by the "new" Howard The Duck.

Howard's long, ducklike bill would be replaced by a smaller, upturned bill. It would be fat and heavy, instead of slim and wide.

His head would be oval instead of round, with eyes covering less than one-third of his face.

His feet would have small toes at the end (curiously resembling those that had adorned Donald Duck in the period of his creation)

Howard would become shorter and squatter.

His feathers would have a yellowish hue, in contrast to his previous white color.

His head would be covered by small tufts of feathers, which would resemble shaggy hair. His eyebrows would be emphasized

And Howard would almost always wear pants

Oddly, the new Howard harkened back to the original, Val Mayerik version. And while negotiations were proceeding, Howard's comicbook life was undergoing serious changes. In an attempt to reach a wider, more sophisticated audience, Marvel decided to experiment with their wildest character — and Howard's four-color comic was cancelled, to be replaced several months later by a new, larger-sized black-and-white magazine. The change almost brought the negotiations to a halt; news stories had spread the word that HOWARD THE DUCK was cancelled — which, if true, would have rendered the negotiations pointless.

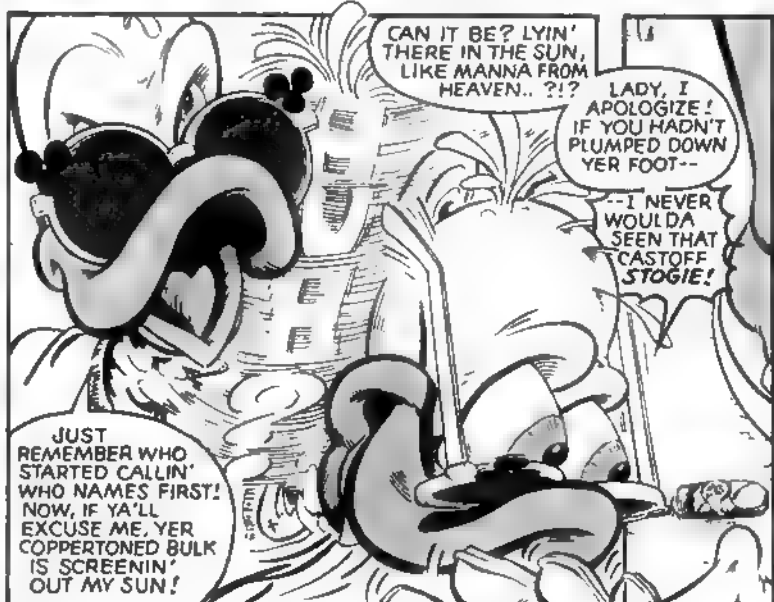
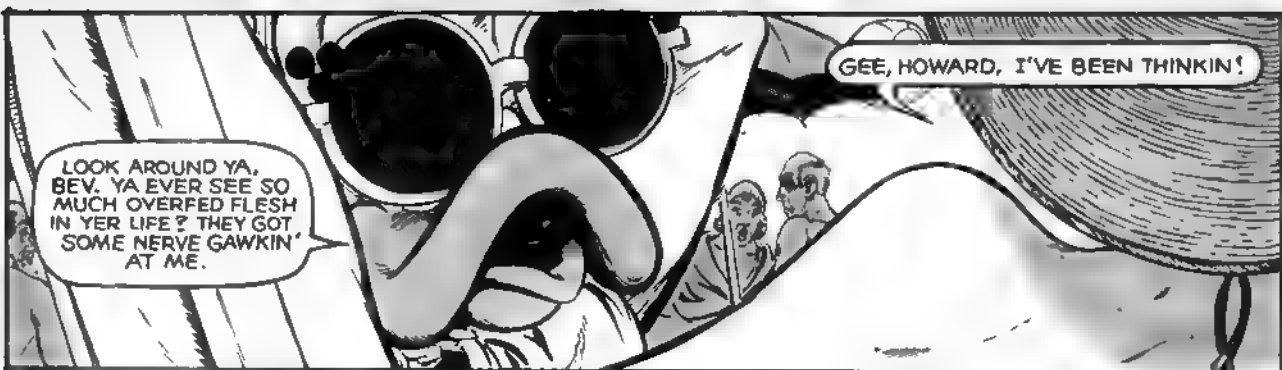
So say hello to the New Howard, and rest easy, America. Once more, men have worked out their differences with communication instead of battle. Once more, the world has been made safe for ducks.

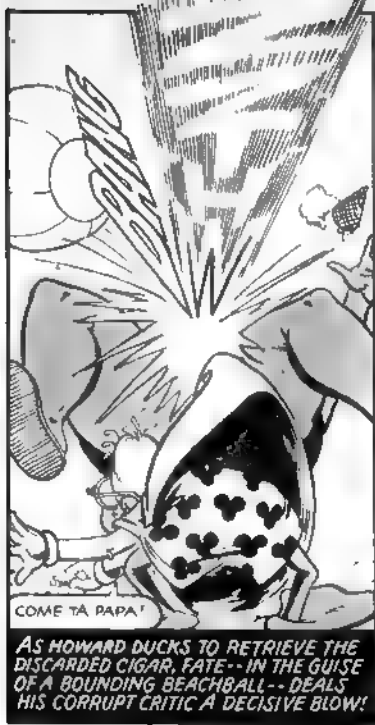
Howard The Duck — trapped in trousers he never made.

APPROVED
BY THE
COSMIC
CODE
AUTHORITY

YECCH...
DISGUSTING!

CAREFUL, TOOTS. IT SOUNDS LIKE THE WORK-ETHIC IS SURFACIN' IN YA LIKE A GUILTY CONSCIENCE.





WEBBED FEET FURIOUSLY FANNING THE WAVES, HOWARD RACES TO THE AID OF HIS BELOVED BEVERLY!



HOLD ON, DARLIN'-- I'M COMIN'!



HOWARD...?!?

THIS IS NO TIME FOR IDLE CHIT-CHAT, TOOTS! JUST GRAB HOLD AN' I'LL GET YA TA SAFETY!



BUT, DUCKY-- YOU'RE WALKING ON WATER!

LOOK, MOMMY! IT'S A MIRACLE!

TOBY, THERE'S A TIME FOR TERROR AND A TIME FOR BLASPHEMY!



THERE IS ALSO A TIME FOR CONSTERNATION!

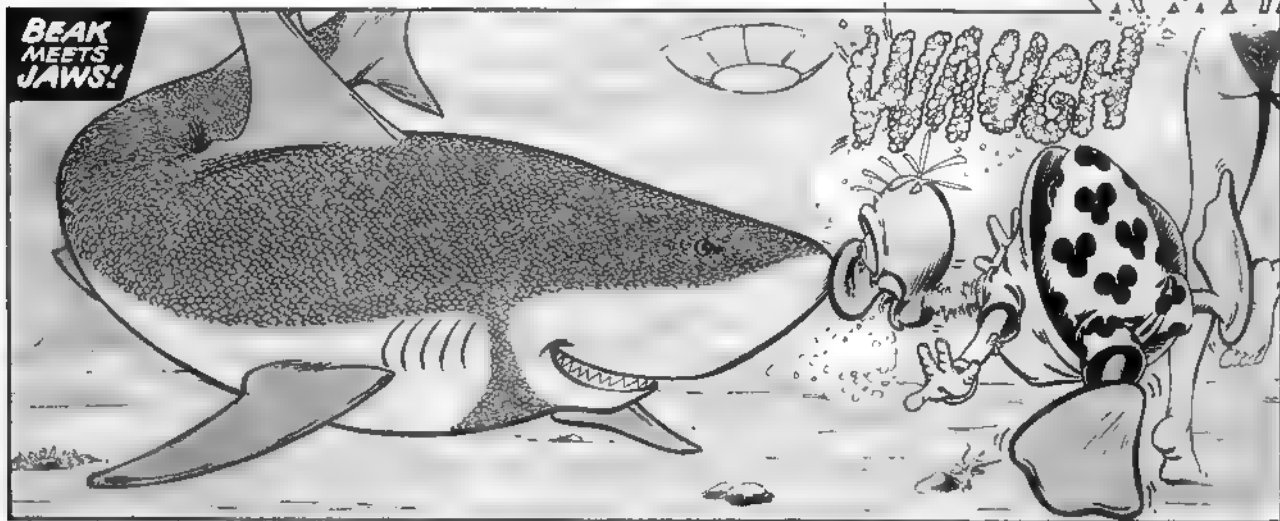
WHAT'S EVERYBODY STARIN' AN' POINTIN' AT ME FOR? I DIDN'T DO ANY--!

WAAK! I AM WALKIN' ON WATER!



BUT NOBODY CAN DO STUFF LIKE THAT OUTSIDE OF A CHUCK JONES CARTOON!

WHICH THIS AIN'T!



BEAK MEETS JAWS!

WAAUGH



IS THERE ANY CREATURE ON THIS MADHOUSE WORLD THAT DOESN'T LIKE THE TASTE OF DUCK??!



THIS AIN'T NO TIME TA WAX RHETORICAL!

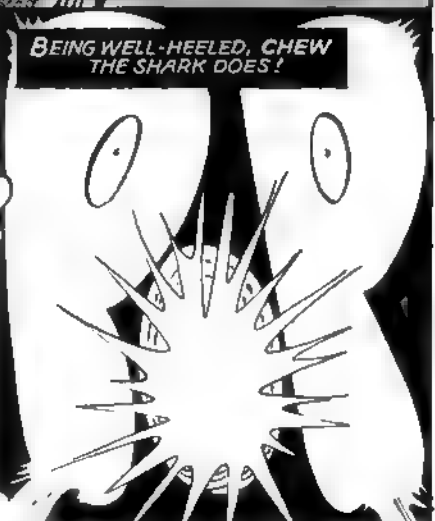
I GOTTA FEED THIS FISH SOMETHIN' ELSE BEFORE HE PUTS THE BITE ON ME!

HERE, YA OVERDENTURED FLOUNDER--HAVE A BALL!



GULP?

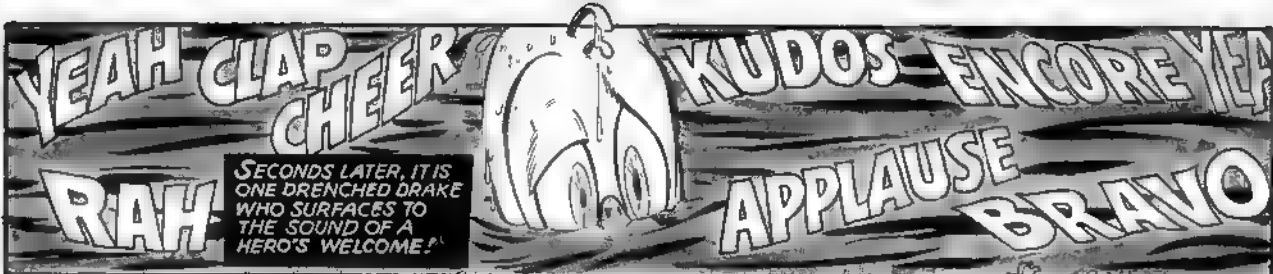
WELL, WHAT ARE YA WAITIN' FOR? DIDN'T YER MOTHER EVER TELL YA DO NOT TA SWALLOW YER FOOD WITHOUT CHEWIN'?



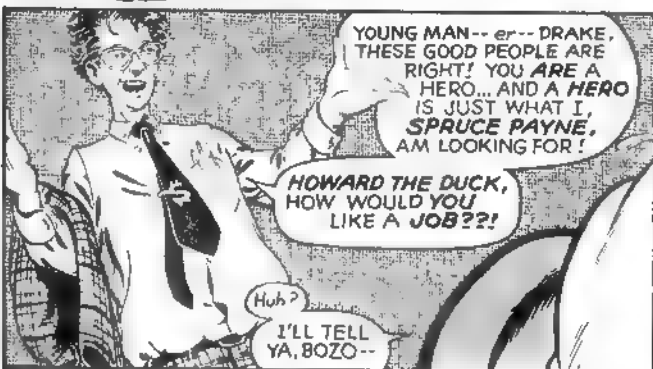
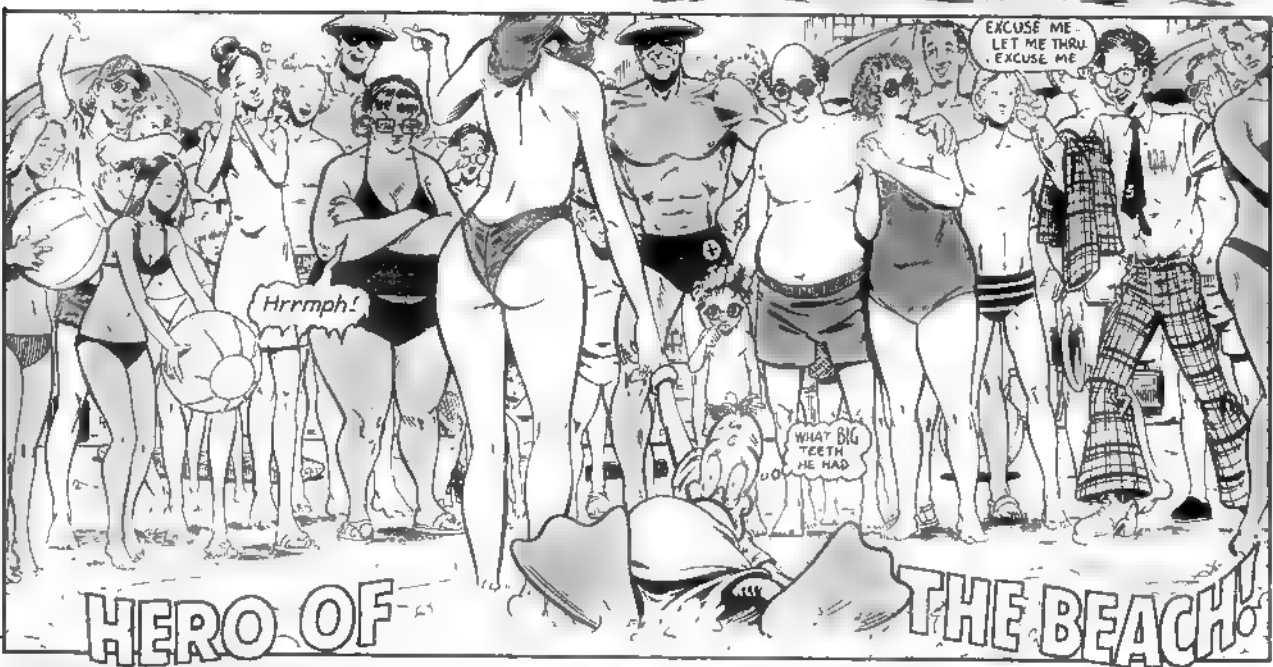
BEING WELL-HEELED, CHEW THE SHARK DOES!

UNFORTUNATELY, A DIET OF BEACHBALLS CONTAINS CONSIDERABLY MORE HOT AIR THAN EVEN OUR HARRIED HERO!





SECONDS LATER, IT IS ONE DRENCHED DRAKE WHO SURFACES TO THE SOUND OF A HERO'S WELCOME!



THE NEXT DAY, AT A SUBURBAN SHOPPING CENTER ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF MIAMI KNOWN AS THE MAMMOTH MALL...

STEP RIGHT UP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FOR THE PREMIERE DEMONSTRATION OF A PRODUCT SO DARINGLY DIFFERENT...

...THAT IT TAKES COURAGE MERELY TO PRESENT IT TO YOU! YES, I'M TALKING ABOUT THE ONE, THE ONLY **SUPER-SCENT!**

YOU'VE HEARD OF THE STUFF OF WHICH HEROES ARE MADE?

THIS IS IT!

SUPER-SCENT IS GUARANTEED 100% EXTRACT FROM THE SWEAT OF **SUPER-HEROES!** WEARING IT, YOU TOO CAN BE A **Mr. OR A Ms. MARVEL!**

Super-Scent

"IT BRINGS OUT THE HERO IN YOU"

INDULGE YOUR FANTASIES! SOAR INTO THE STRATOSPHERE WITH THE PERFUME OF THE STARS! **SUPER-SCENT!**

SWEAT BEADS ON SPRUCE PAYNE'S BROW. HE DOESN'T NEED A PUBLIC OPINION POLL TO TELL HIM THAT HIS STANDARD SALESMAN'S SPIEL ISN'T GOING OVER WITH THIS CROWD. BUT THEN, IN MAMMOTH MALL, SURROUNDED BY THE VAST ARRAY OF GOODS OFFERED, YOU NEED A GIMMICK TO GET YOUR PRODUCT ACROSS.

Suddenly...

YOUR **SUPER-SCENT** MAY BRING OUT THE **HERO** IN SOME...

BUT IT ONLY AROUSES THE VILLAINY IN US!!

SOMETHING'S COOKING

WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHO ARE YOU??

IT'S A STICK UP!

THAT SALESMAN'S IN TROUBLE!

WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING!

RIGHT! YOU WAIT HERE-- I'LL GO CALL MY ANALYST!

WHO ARE WE? I AM THE **PUFFIN**, COME TO COOK YOUR GOOSE!

I AM THE **JOKESTER**, HERE TO TICKLE YOU TO DEATH!

TOGETHER WITH I, THE **QUIZZING**, WE HAVE COME TO STEAL YOUR PRODUCT!

OH, CAN NO ONE SAVE MY **SUPER-SCENT???**



SUDDENLY A SOUND FILLS THE MALL... DISCO BEAT BLARING THE BACKGROUND MUSIC OF EVERY HEROIC FANTASY!

THANK MY LUCKY STARS! HELP IS ON THE WAY!

YATA-TATTATA-TATTATA

IT IS THE HIGH PICCOLO SQUEAL OF BRAKING TIRES-- THE KETTLEDRUM RUMBLE OF A MIGHTY ENGINE!

IT HERALDS THE ARRIVAL OF THE DREADED DUCK-MOBILE!

THE COMING OF THAT DARK-NIGHT DUCKTECTIVE...

DUCK-MAN

AND HIS CURVACEOUS COMRADE-- IN ARMS..

DUCK GIRL

WHEREVER EVIL HOLDS ITS SWAY, IT'S TIME FOR DUCK-MAN TA ENTER THE FRAY!

I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU, HOWAR... DUCK-MAN!



HEAVENS! A COSTUMED CANARD!

WHAT A FOWL ADDITION TO OUR LARCENOUS RECIPE!

SURRENDER THAT SUPER-SCENT, VILLAINS, OR FACE MY DUCKARANG!

THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!



AS THE DUCKNAMIC DUO ASSAILS THE TERRIBLE TRIO, THE CROWD GASPS IN AWE!



YOU'VE SAVED MY SUPER SCENT!

NATCH! WE'RE THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD-- WHATEVER THAT MEANS??

ADMIT DEFEAT, OR I'LL PRODUCE YET ANOTHER WONDROUS WEAPON FROM MY IMPOSSIBLY-POCKETED WEB-BELT!

WE GIVE UP!



SAY... I JUST REALIZED...

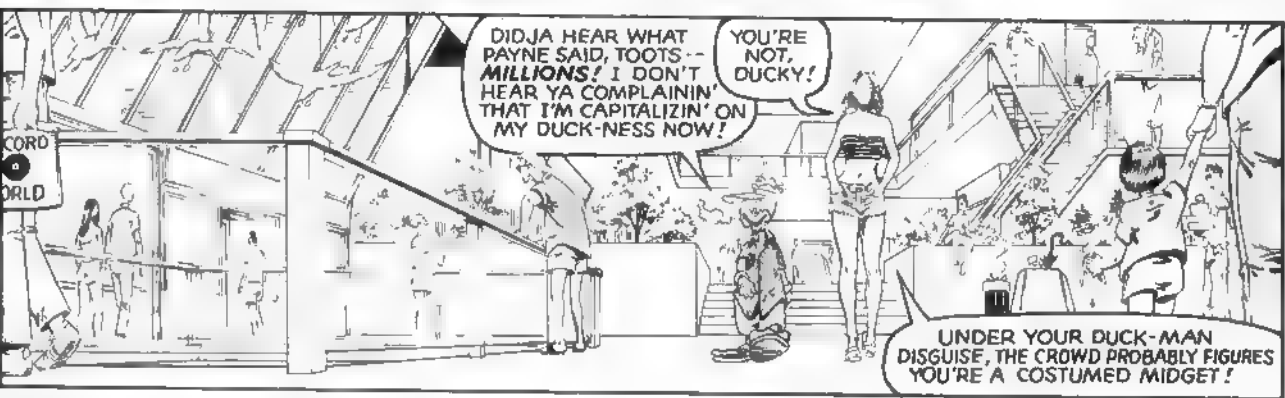
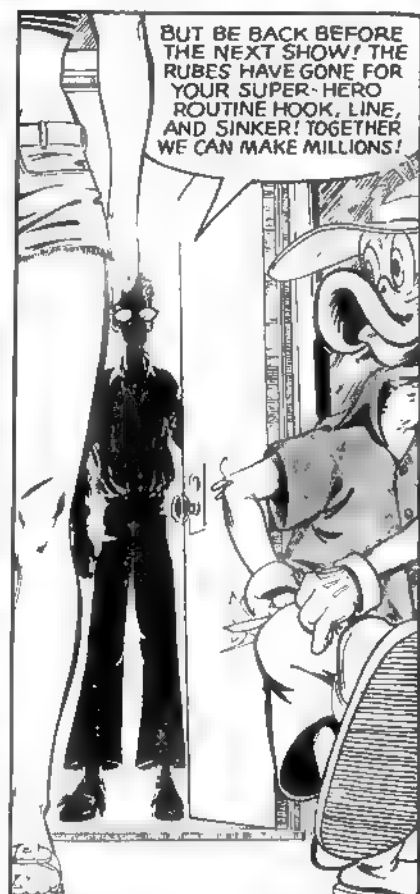
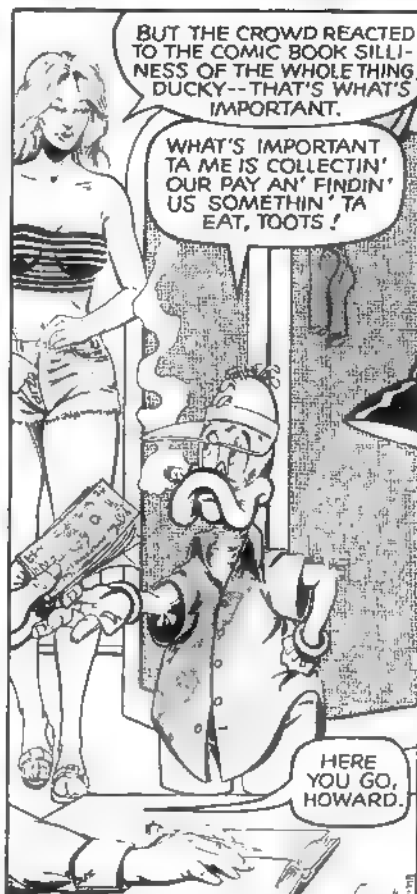
RIGHT, MAN! THE WHOLE THING WAS AN ACT!

I DON'T CARE! IT WAS NEAT!

YOU SAID IT! WHAT A SHOW!

ANY PRODUCT THAT CAN ENTERTAIN ME LIKE THAT DESERVES A TRY!

THUS, TAKEN IN, THE SHOPPERS OF MAMMOTH MALL PRESS FORWARD TO BE THE FIRST TO PROCURE A BOTTLE OF SPRUCE PAYNE'S SUPER-SCENT!

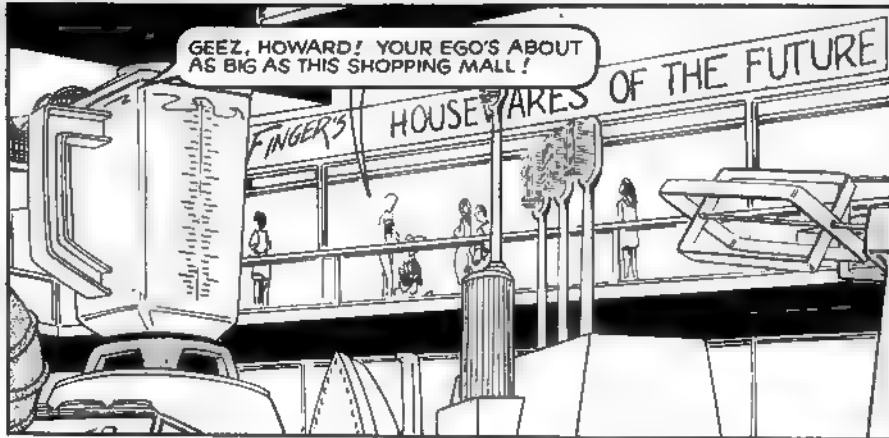




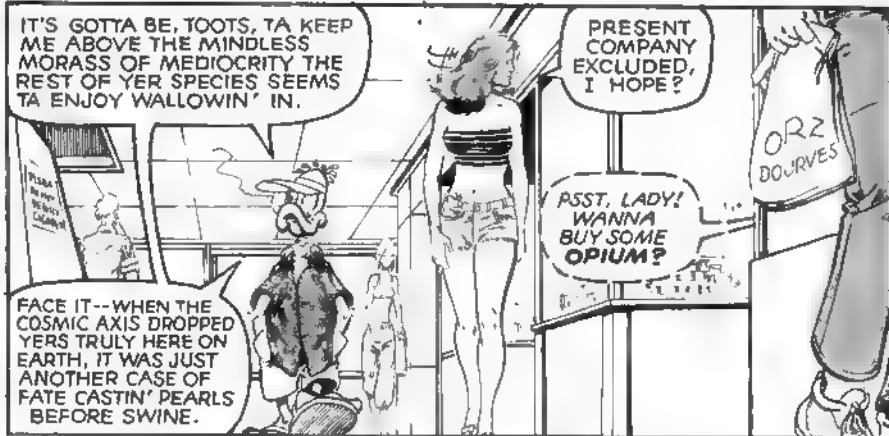
BALONEY, BABE!
IT AIN'T THE
COSTUME WHAT
MAKES THIS DUCK A
SUPER-SENSATION--
BUT THE OTHER WAY
AROUND! I GOT
CHARISMA! THAT'S
WHAT THE CROWD
RESPONDS TO!

SOMEDAY I
HOPE SOME-
BODY'S ABLE
TO EXPLAIN TO
ME HOW I LOST
MY HEART TO A
MEGALOMANIACAL
MALLARD.

KISMET,
CUPCAKE!



GEEZ, HOWARD! YOUR EGO'S ABOUT
AS BIG AS THIS SHOPPING MALL!

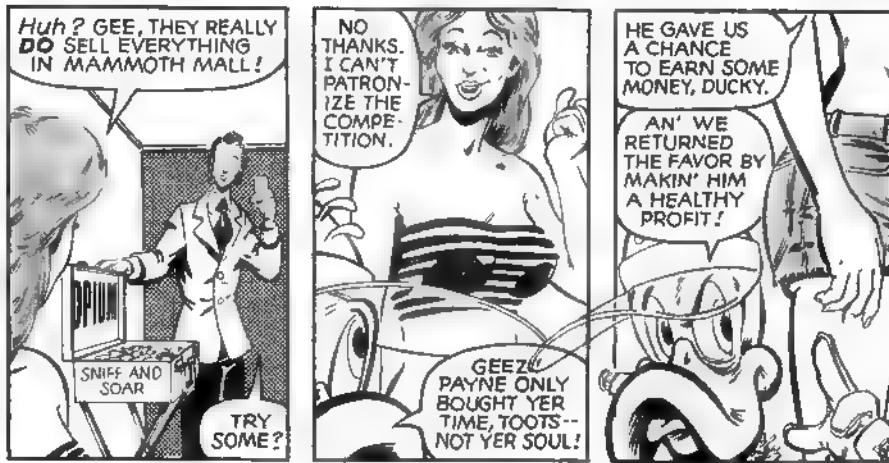


IT'S GOTTA BE, TOOTS, TA KEEP
ME ABOVE THE MINDLESS
MORASS OF MEDIOCRITY THE
REST OF YER SPECIES SEEMS
TA ENJOY WALLOWIN' IN.

PRESENT
COMPANY
EXCLUDED,
I HOPE?

PSST, LADY!
WANNA
BUY SOME
OPIUM?

FACE IT--WHEN THE
COSMIC AXIS DROPPED
YERS TRULY HERE ON
EARTH, IT WAS JUST
ANOTHER CASE OF
FATE CASTIN' PEARLS
BEFORE SWINE.



Huh? GEE, THEY REALLY
DO SELL EVERYTHING
IN MAMMOTH MALL!

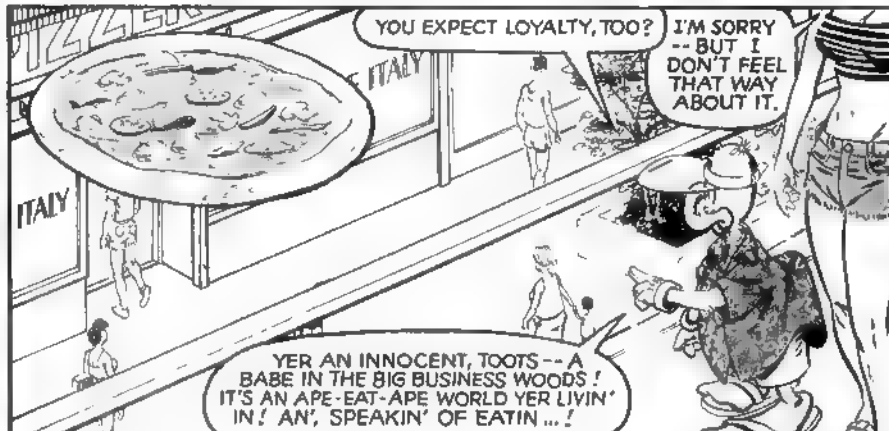
NO
THANKS.
I CAN'T
PATRON-
IZE THE
COMPE-
TITION.

HE GAVE US
A CHANCE
TO EARN SOME
MONEY, DUCKY.

AN' WE
RETURNED
THE FAVOR BY
MAKIN' HIM
A HEALTHY
PROFIT!

GEEZ!
PAYNE ONLY
BOUGHT YER
TIME, TOOTS--
NOT YER SOUL!

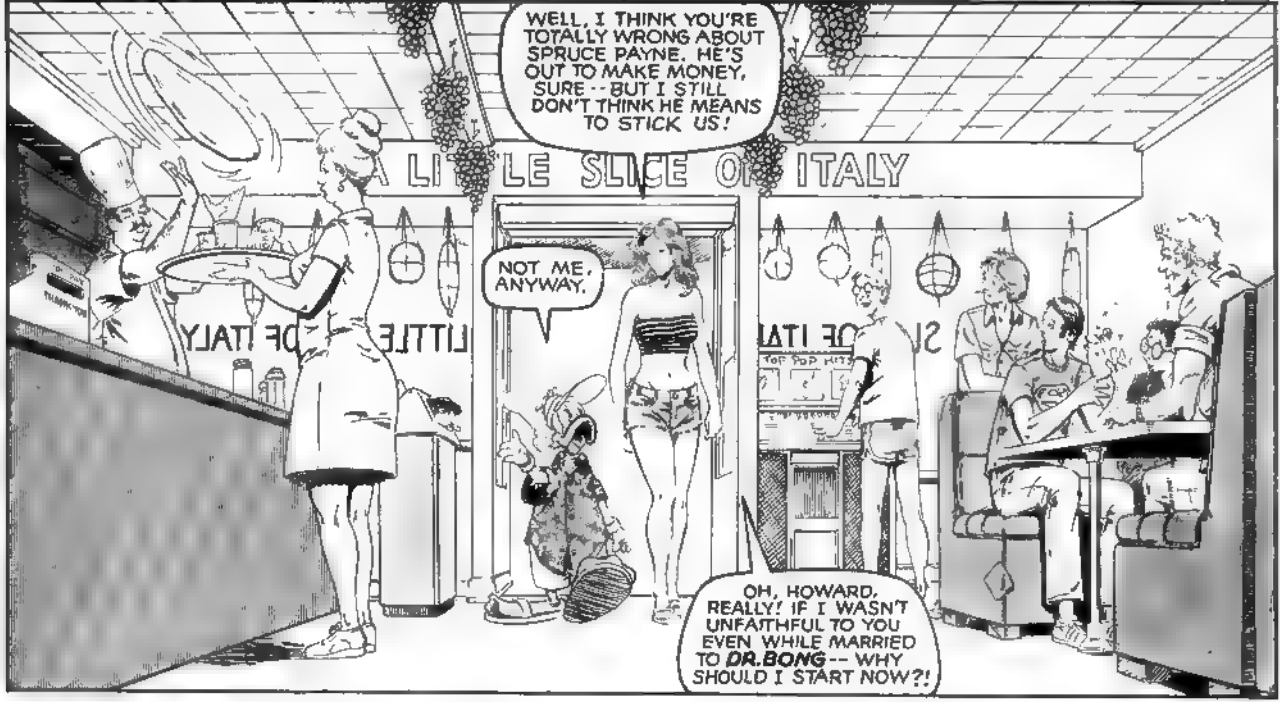
TRY
SOME?



YOU EXPECT LOYALTY, TOO?

I'M SORRY
-- BUT I
DON'T FEEL
THAT WAY
ABOUT IT.

YER AN INNOCENT, TOOTS-- A
BABE IN THE BIG BUSINESS WOODS!
IT'S AN APE-EAT-APE WORLD YER LIVIN'
IN! AN', SPEAKIN' OF EATIN' ...!



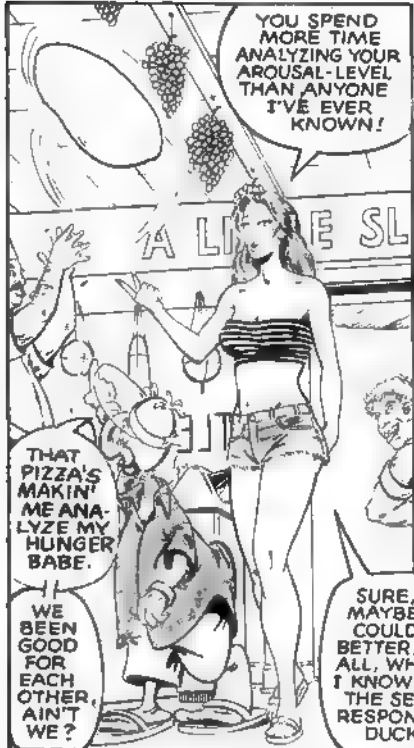
WELL, I THINK YOU'RE TOTALLY WRONG ABOUT SPRUCE PAYNE. HE'S OUT TO MAKE MONEY, SURE -- BUT I STILL DON'T THINK HE MEANS TO STICK US!

NOT ME, ANYWAY.

OH, HOWARD, REALLY! IF I WASN'T UNFAITHFUL TO YOU EVEN WHILE MARRIED TO DR. BONG -- WHY SHOULD I START NOW?!



DON'T EXPECT ME TA FIGURE OUT THE WORKIN'S OF HAIRLESS-APPE HORMONES. I GOT A HARD ENOUGH TIME UNDERSTANDIN' MY OWN!



YOU SPEND MORE TIME ANALYZING YOUR AROUSAL-LEVEL THAN ANYONE I'VE EVER KNOWN!

THAT PIZZA'S MAKIN' ME ANALYZE MY HUNGER BABE.

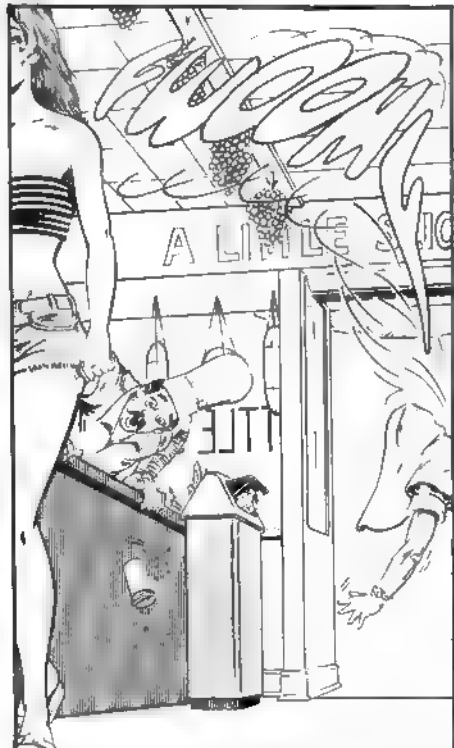
WE BEEN GOOD FOR EACH OTHER, AIN'T WE?



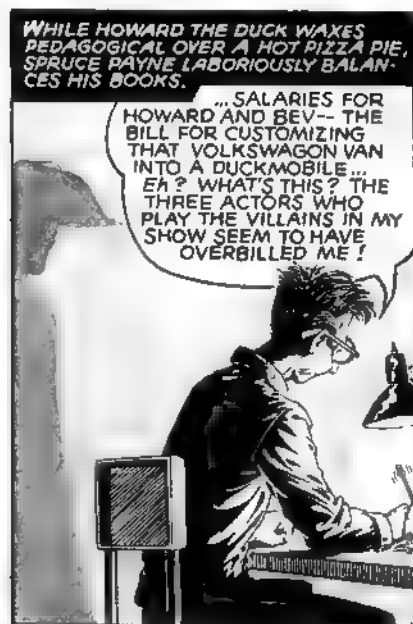
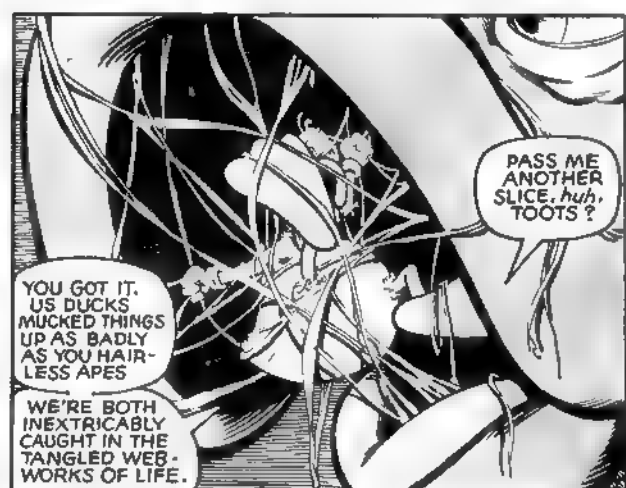
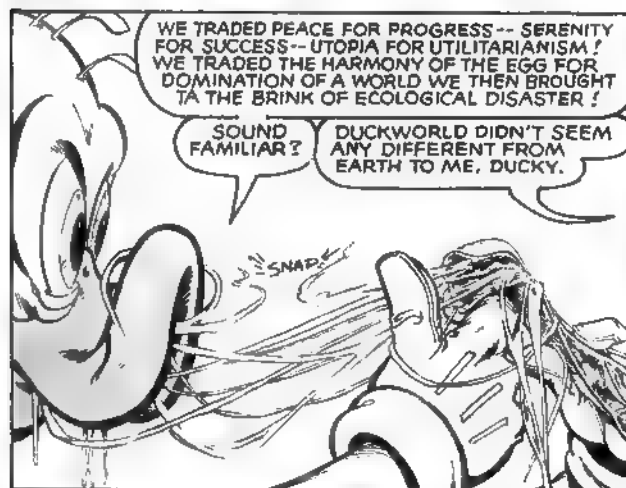
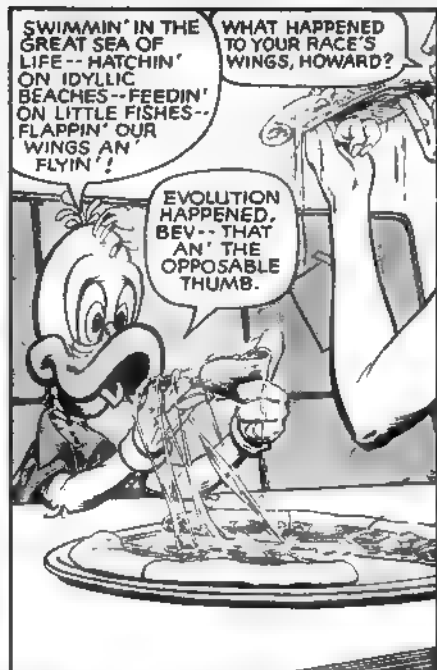
SURE, BUT MAYBE WE COULD BE BETTER! AFTER ALL, WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT THE SEXUAL RESPONSE OF DUCKS?!

LOOK, LET'S JUST EAT AN' GET OUTIA HERE.

A TALKING DUCK???



A LITTLE SLICE



JOKESTER!
PUFFIN!
QUIZZING!

YOUR TRIO
OF EMBEZZLERS,
MR. PAYNE!

TH-THEN YOU
ADMIT IT?!

OF COURSE! YOU
HAD TO FIND OUT
EVENTUALLY!

I'M AFRAID,
FROM HIS QUIZZICAL
EXPRESSION,
THAT OUR
EMPLOYER IS
SOMEWHAT
PUZZLED,
PUFFIN!

REALLY?
THEN LET ME
ENDEAVOR TO
EXPLAIN THE
RECIPE OF
LIFE TO YOU,
MR. PAYNE!

YOU SEE, YOU
NEED A LICENSE
TO SELL YOUR
PRODUCT IN
MAMMOTH MALL!

LICENSE?
NOBODY
TOLD ME
ABOUT ANY
LICENSE!

WE'RE
TELLING
YOU, MR.
PAYNE!

WITHOUT
A LICENSE,
YOU COULD
GET INTO
TROUBLE!

AND, IF YOU GET
INTO TROUBLE,
YOU MIGHT NEED
PROTECTION!

PR-PROTECTION FROM WHAT???

FROM US,
OF COURSE,
MR. PAYNE!

SWOKE
CLUNK

WHY, YOU--
YOU'RE NOTHING
BUT COMMON
CRIMINALS!
EXTORTIONISTS!

EXACTLY!

I URGE YOU
TO COOPERATE
WITH US, MR.
PAYNE! OTHER-
WISE YOUR
FATE WILL BE
NO LAUGHING
MATTER!

COOPERATE?
HOW?

A CUT OF THE SALES-- SAY, A
50% PARTNERSHIP-- FROM YOUR
SUPER-SCENT SHOULD BE MORE
THAN SUFFICIENT, MR. PAYNE...
FOR NOW!

YOU WANT TO
TAKE OVER
MY SALES
OPERATION?
NO! NEVER!

I WORKED YEARS
DEVELOPING MY
MARKETING
STRATEGY! I WON'T
LET YOU TAKE IT
AWAY FROM ME--
NOT WHILE I LIVE!

FINE,
MR. PAYNE!
WE ACCEPT
YOUR TERMS!

T-TERMS? WHAT TERMS?!

WHY, TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR ENTERPRISE AFTER YOUR UNTIMELY DEMISE.

YOU HAVE MADE QUITE A SUCCESS WITH YOUR SUPER-SCENT SALES CAMPAIGN... AND QUITE A PROFIT, TOO!

HOWEVER, UNLIKE THE OTHER MERCHANTS WHO OPERATE OUT OF MAMMOTH MALL ONLY WITH MY OFFICIAL SANCTION, YOU HAVE GONE YOUR OWN WAY! I CANNOT BROOK OPPOSITION, MR. PAYNE! YOU MUST BE MADE AN EXAMPLE OF!

E-EXAMPLE?

I'M AFRAID SO! A WARNING, AS IT WERE, TO ALL THE OTHERS WHO MIGHT SEEK TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS--THAT IT IS DEATH TO DEFEY--
THE MALLER!

SLASH

WHAT TECHNIQUE! WHAT RAZOR-SHARP WIT!

I GUESS IT'S SAFE TO LOOK?

YES, QUIZLING! OUR MASTER HAS FRIED POOR MR. PAYNE'S HASH!

HIS SUPER-SCENT IS NOW... OURS!

THEIR LUNCH HOUR OVER, HOWARD AND BEVERLY CAME SEEKING THEIR EMPLOYER...

OH! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?

THEY'RE OUT! IS WHAT'S HAPPENED TO 'EM! PAYNE MUST THINK HE'S A BAT!

HEY, PAYNE--YER STARS ARE HERE FOR THE NEXT SHOW!

NOTHIN'! GEEZ, FOR A GUY WHO'S TALKIN' ABOUT MAKIN' MILLIONS, YA'D THINK HE COULD AFFORD TA PAY THE ELECTRIC BILL!

HOWARD, WHAT'S THAT STRANGE SMELL?

DON'T YA RECOGNIZE IT, TOOTS? IT'S THE UNDERARM ODOR OF SUPER-HEROES...

...OR S' PAYNE TELLS THE RUBES!

BUT, AT \$20 AN OUNCE, WHY WOULD HE BE SO WASTEFUL WITH HIS SUPER-SCENT?

SEARCH ME! MAYBE HE'S SPRAYED IT AROUND THE ROOM TA TEST ITS EFFECTIVENESS AS A MOSQUITO REPELLENT!

WAITAMINNIT! I THINK I FOUND THE SWITCH THAT TURNS ON THE...



...LIGHTS!

BOOOHE

H-HOWARD, IT--
IT'S MR. PAYNE--
HANGING
SUSPENDED
INSIDE THE
DISPLAY ATOMIZER
CONTAINING HIS
SUPER-SCENT!



D-DUCKY, I-I
THINK HE'S...
DEAD!!

EVERYBODY
STAND WHERE
YOU ARE! LOOKS
LIKE THAT
ANONYMOUS TIP
WE RECEIVED
WAS CORRECT.
CAPTAIN
GORDONSKI!

SPRUCE
PAYNE
HAS BEEN
MURDERED!

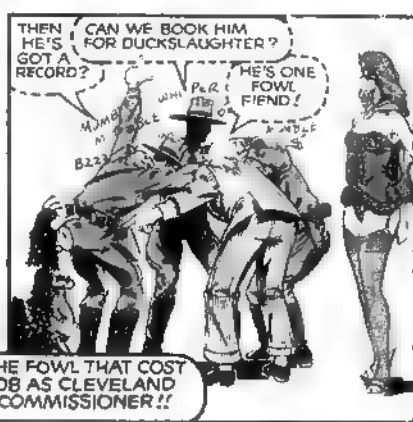


START TALKING! WE HAVE
INFORMATION SUGGESTING
THAT YOU TWO CONSPIRED
TO KILL YOUR EMPLOYER!

OH, COME OFF IT,
GORDONSKI!

YOU
KNOW
ME??

REMEMBER
CLEVELAND?
TRYIN' TA FIND
THE ZIPPER IN
MY "DUCK
SUIT"?



THEN
HE'S
GOT A
RECORD?

CAN WE BOOK HIM
FOR DUCKSLAUGHTER?

HE'S ONE
FINE
FIEND!



HOWARD THE DUCK,
THE FACTS BEING
CLEAR, I CHARGE
YOU WITH THE
MURDER OF
SPRUCE PAYNE!

ARREST
HIM,
BOYS!

WAAKE



Unh-uh! NO WAY!
I'M INNOCENT--
BUT I AIN'T
OPTIMISTIC OF
BEIN' ABLE TO
CONVINCE A
HAIRLESS APE
JURY OF THAT!

COME ON, TOOTS!
WE'RE GETTIN'
OUTTA HERE!

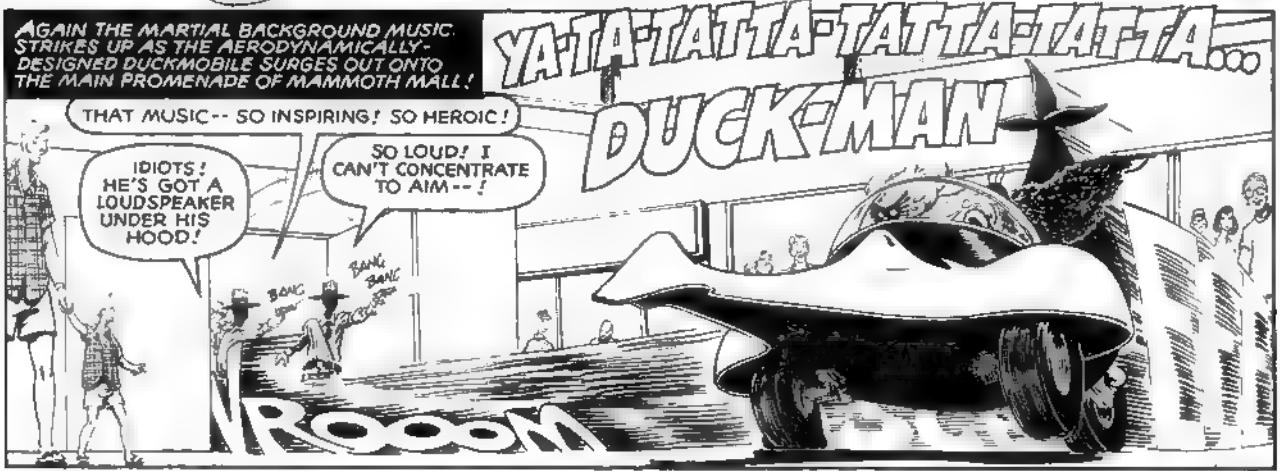
BUT HOW,
HOWARD??



THE DUCKMOBILE, BEV! THE ONLY WAY WE'RE
GONNA CLEAR OURSELVES IS TA USE PAYNE'S
CAR TA FIND PAYNE'S KILLERS!

SHOOT
OR I'LL
HALT!

NO, YOU IMBECILE!
THAT'S... OH, NEVER
MIND!



AGAIN THE MARTIAL BACKGROUND MUSIC
STRIKES UP AS THE AERODYNAMICALLY-
DESIGNED DUCKMOBILE SURGES OUT ONTO
THE MAIN PROMENADE OF MAMMOTH MALL!

YATTA-TATTA-TATTA-TATTA...

DUCK-MAN

THAT MUSIC-- SO INSPIRING! SO HEROIC!

IDIOTS!
HE'S GOT A
LOUDSPEAKER
UNDER HIS
HOOD!

SO LOUD! I
CAN'T CONCENTRATE
TO AIM--!

Room



B-BEV! C-CUT THE SOUND-
TRACK AN' GRAB HOLD OF
THE WHEEL! MY CAPE'S
COVERIN' MY EYES! I
CAN'T SEE!!

I DON'T KNOW
HOW MUCH HELP
I CAN BE, DUCKY!
I CAN'T DRIVE!

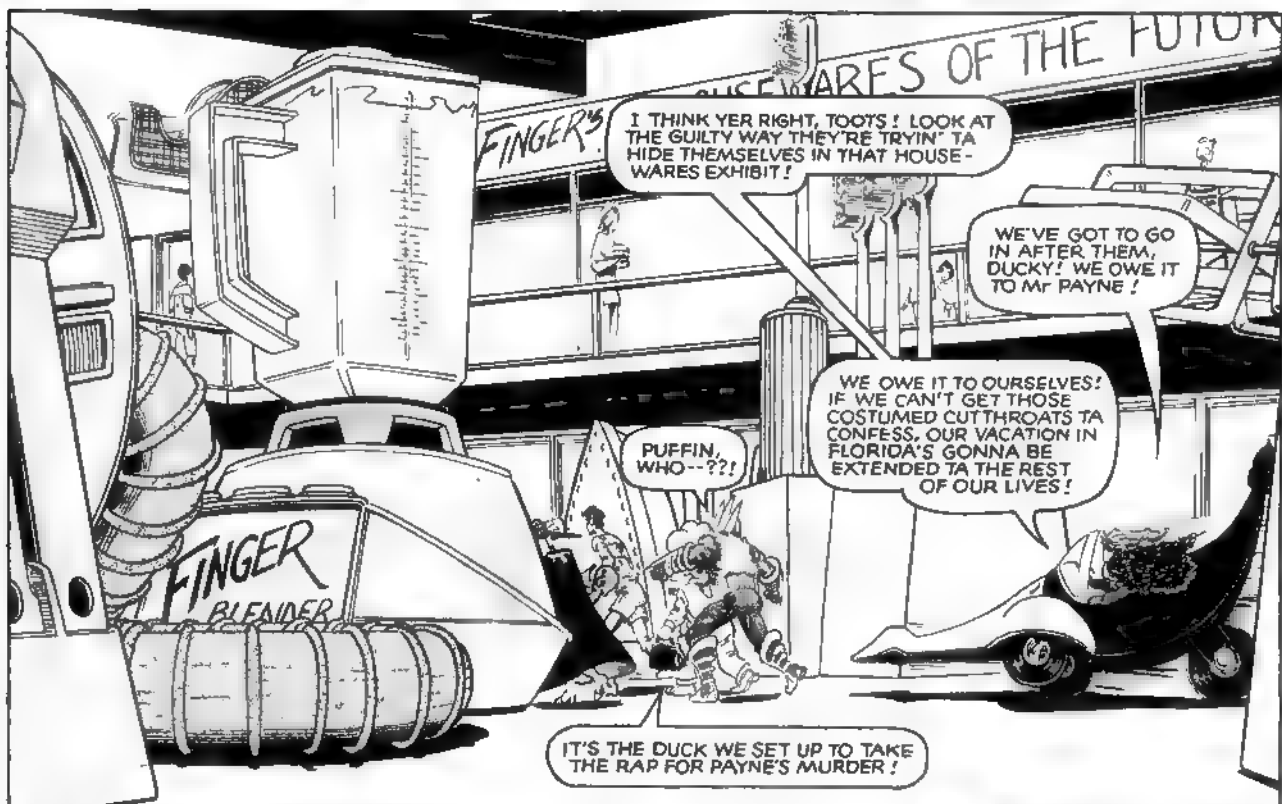
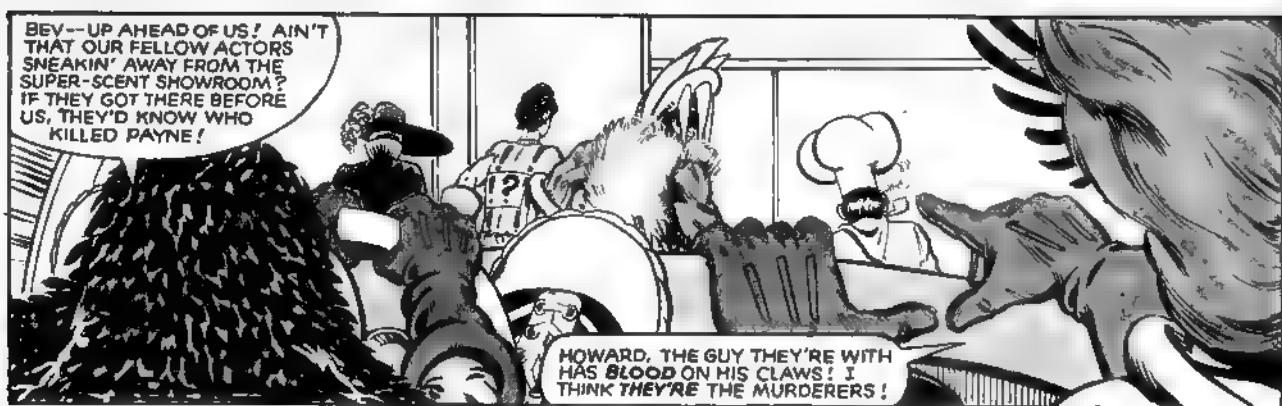
WHAT???



IT'S TRUE! I ALWAYS HAD SO
MANY BOYFRIENDS WILLING
TO TAKE ME EVERYWHERE
THAT I NEVER BOTHERED
TO LEARN!

SHEESH! DON'T WOMENS
LIBERATION EXTEND TA
DRIVER EDUCATION ??!

PLEASE KEEP OFF
PLASTIC BANTS



AS HOWARD WATCHES HELPLESSLY FROM HIS TAPE TRAP ABOVE...

... THE THREE REMAINING VILLAINS ADVANCE UPON THE DUCKMOBILE... AND BEV?

DUCK-MAN AND DUCK-GIRL KNOW OF OUR GUILT! WE CANNOT TAKE THE CHANCE OF THEIR CONVINCING THE AUTHORITIES!

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO, MALLER?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, PUFFIN? MAUL THEM!

BUT IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEIR DEATHS ARE HORRIFYINGLY HILARIOUS!

BUT THE APPEALINGLY- APPORTIONED MS. SWITZLER IS NO LESS ENDOWED WITH A WILL TO SURVIVE THAN HER CAPED AND COWLED COMPANION!

THAT TERRIBLE TRIO'S PLANNIN' TA PRUNE BEV EVEN WORSE THAN THE PRITKIN DIET-- AN' THERE'S NUTHIN' I CAN DO TA HELP!

Uh-oh! HOWARD'S TAPED... AND I'M TRAPPED-- WITH NO WAY TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THOSE THREE COSTUMED CLOWNS, EXCEPT...!

OF COURSE! THE DUCKMOBILE! POOR MR. PAYNE SAID HE'D LOADED IT WITH GIMMICKS TO MAKE OUR SUPER-HERO SHOW ALL THE MORE IMPRESSIVE!

NOW IF ONLY I CAN REMEMBER WHICH OF THESE BUTTONS DOES--

--WHAT...?!

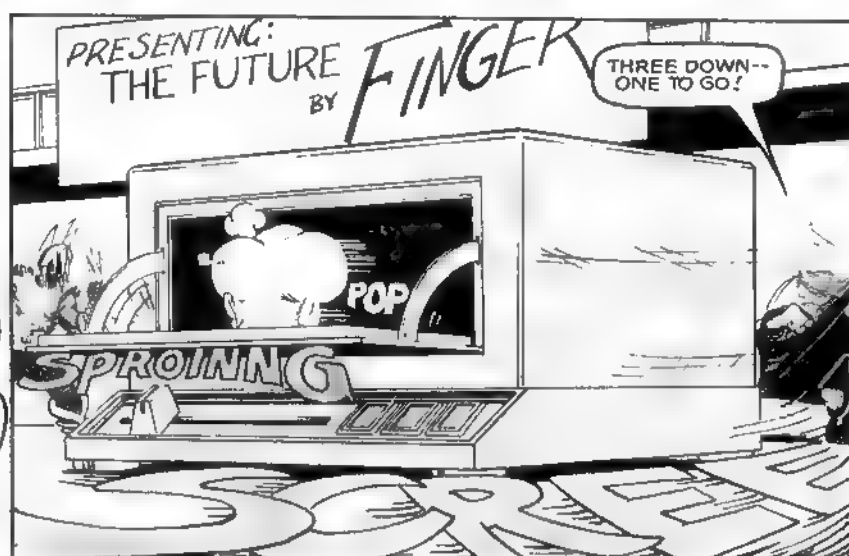
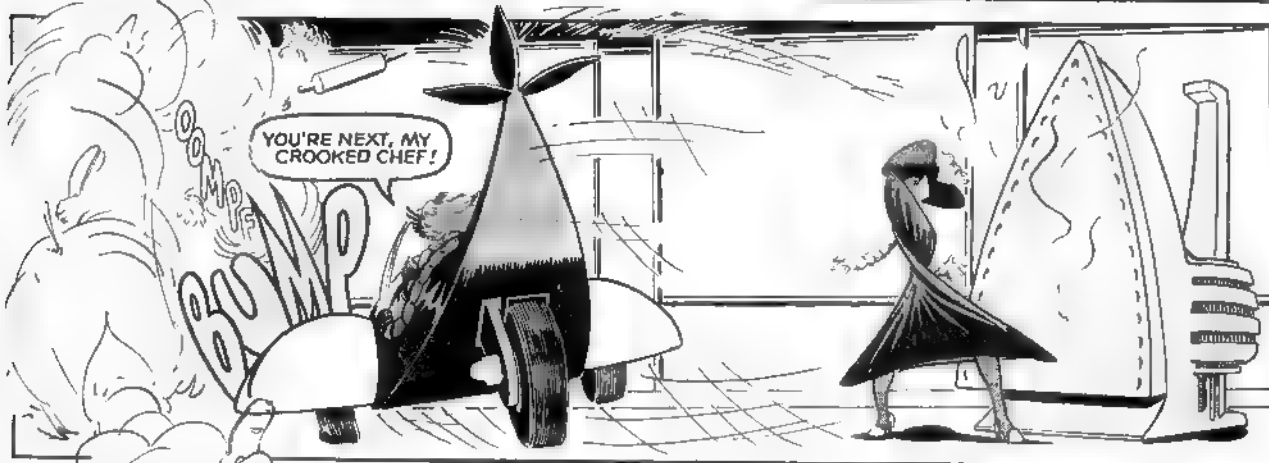
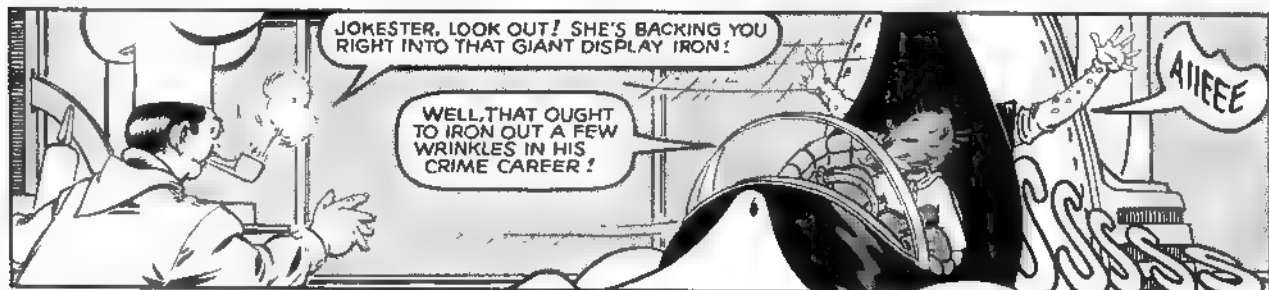
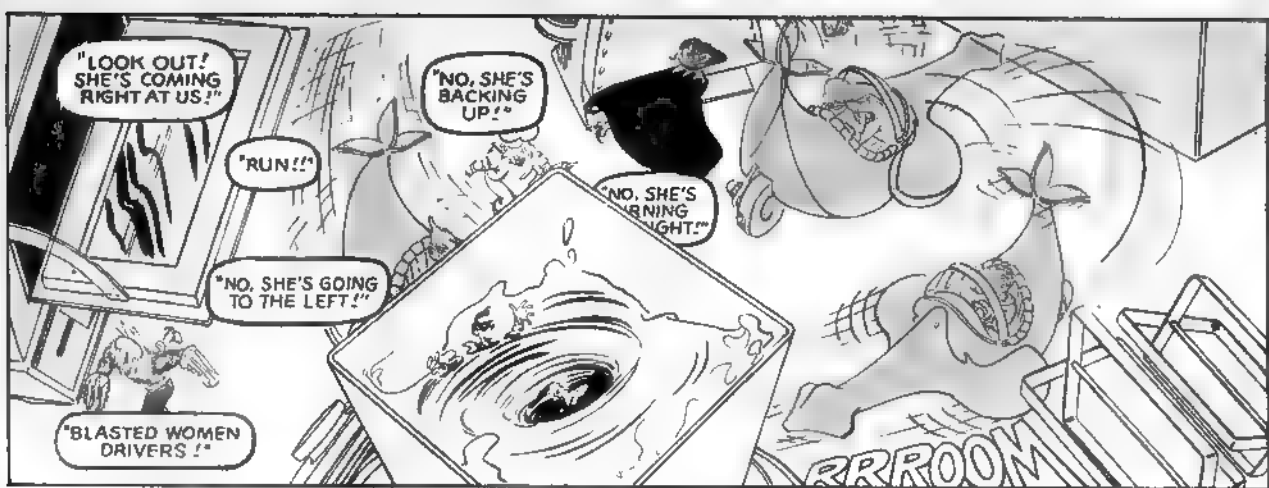
THE DUCK-SIGNAL!

ARRGH! THAT LIGHT! MY EYES!!

LISTEN! THE SOUND OF ENGINES! THE WOMAN'S STARTED UP THE DUCKMOBILE!

AND WE CAN'T SEE TO GET OUT OF HER WAY! MY, THIS ISN'T FUNNY!!





ONE, INDEED, DUCK-GIRL-- BUT I WARRANT YOU WILL FIND THE MALLER SOMEWHAT MORE OF A MENACE THAN HIS THREE INSIPID HENCHMEN!

IN FACT, MY FRIENDS TELL ME I'M QUITE A CUT-UP!

Ohhh-- OH-- H-HOWARD..!

HOWARD THE DUCK DOES NOT HAVE TO HEAR BEVERLY'S UNSPOKEN PLEA IN ORDER TO BE AWARE OF HER PERILOUS PREDICAMENT!

JUST KEEP AWAY FROM HIM, BEV BABY!

ANOTHER MINUTE AN'--

--IT'LL BE DUCK-MAN TA THE RESCUE!

GRABBING THE TAPE FROM THE DISPENSER, HOWARD MAKES A DUCK-DEFYING LEAP INTO SPACE.

AWARE ONLY OF HIS DARLING'S DANGER--

-- HOWARD TRUSTS HIS WEIGHT AND FATE TO THE TAPE--

-- AND SWINGS TO THE SALVATION OF HIS BELOVED BEV!

DUCK, GIRL--

HOWARD!

--WHILE I IMPRINT THE WAFFLE PATTERN OF MY WONDROUS DUCK-SNEAKERS ON THE MALLER'S MALICIOUS KISSER.

SPLAT!

THE FOWL -- HE'S FREE!

DUCKY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING??!

WHEREVER
THE MOMENTUM
CARRIES ME, TOOTS!
I CAN'T STOP
MY SWING!

FORTUNATELY,
HOWARD'S
MOMENTUM
CARRIES HIM TO
THE TOP OF YET
ANOTHER OVER-
SIZED APPLIANCE!

IT IS AN ACCIDENT HE TURNS TO HIS ADVANTAGE!

WHY FIGHT THE MALLER
MYSELF WHEN I CAN LET
"FINGER'S HOUSEWARES
OF THE FUTURE" DO
IT FOR ME?!

FRWOOSH

CLICK
ON

CURSE YOU,
YOU COSTUMED
CANARD!!

SO LONG, MALLER!
I'LL BETCHA WANTED
TA GO OUT IN A
BLAZE OF GLORY--

-- BUT THIS IS
ONE DEFEAT
THAT REALLY
SUCKS!

DUCKY,
YOU
DID IT!

OF THE F

WE'VE CAUGHT THE
MALLER AND HIS
COHORTS IN CRIME!

ALL WE HAVE TO
DO NOW IS TURN
THEM OVER TO
CAPTAIN GORDONSKI,
AND WE'LL BE
CLEARED OF POOR
MR. PAYNE'S MURDER!

WELL WHADDA YA KNOW?
YER RIGHT, TOOTS! I
ORIGINALLY THOUGHT THIS
WHOLE SUPER-HERO SCHTICK
WAS JUST A SCAM TA SELL
SOME WORTHLESS SCENT--

-- BUT BEIN' DUCK-MAN, HAVIN' TA ACT LIKE
A SUPER-HERO, HAS MADE ME SEE THAT WITH
GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!

FOR
HUMILIATING
THE MALLER,
DUCK-- YOU
DIE!!

OH
NO!

GANGWAY!

LIKE
I SAID,
KIDDO--

-- PUTTIN'
ON THIS
DUCK-MAN
OUTFIT HAS
GOTTA BE
THE DUMBEST
THING I'VE
EVER DONE!



LOOKS LIKE YA CAUGHT THE
KNACK OF DRIVIN' THIS JALOPY,
TOOTS--

--SO FLOOR HER BEFORE
THE MALLER GETS HIS
CLAWS INTO MY FEATHER
COVERED FLESH!



ARGHH!

Er--BEV--ONE USUALLY
FLOORS IT GOIN' FORWARD
...NOT IN REVERSE!

DUCKY, IN CASE YOU
HADN'T NOTICED--YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO'S DRIVING!

OH Heh-heh.



COME, MALLARD-- BACK UP INTO MY ARMS!
WHEN I GET DONE WITH YOU, YOU'LL
RESEMBLE SO MANY CARVED CUTLETS!

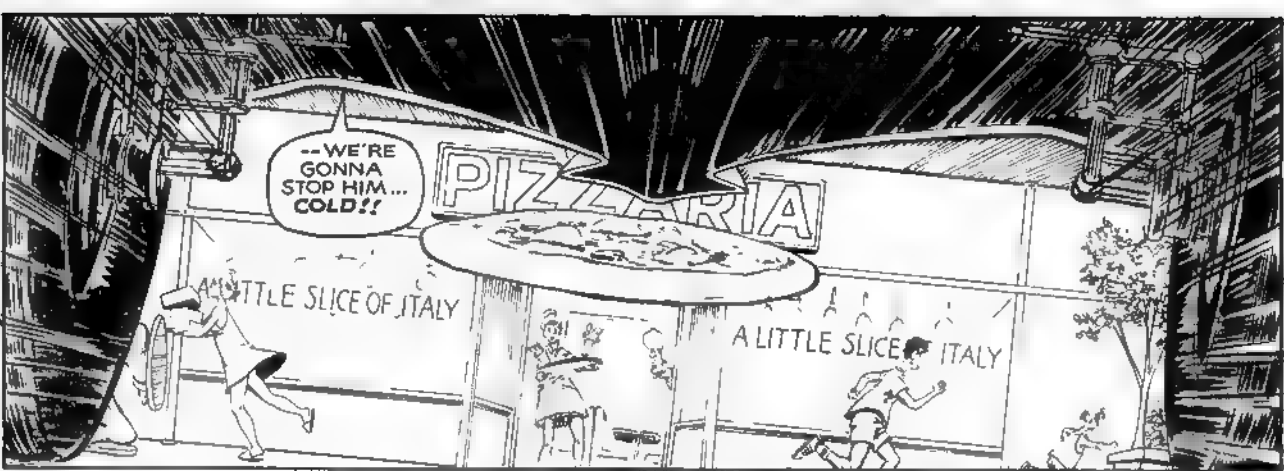
HOWARD,
WHAT ARE
WE GOING
TO DO ???



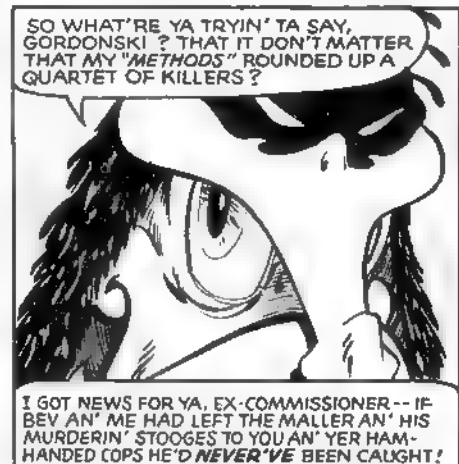
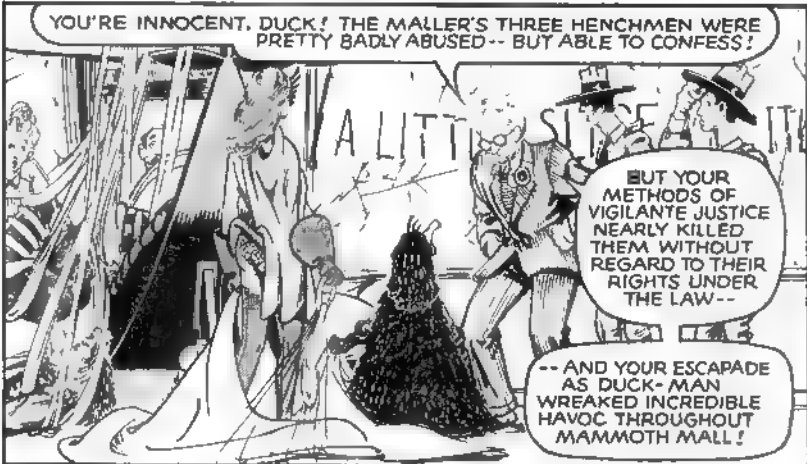
FIRST WE'RE
GONNA GET THIS
FURSHLUUGINER
CAPE OUTTA MY
FACE, TOOTS!



THEN, BEFORE THE
MALLER CAN MAKE
GOOD ON HIS THREAT
TA MAKE FOOD
OUTTA ME --



SECONDS LATER, DUCK-MAN AND DUCK-GIRL FLOAT GENTLY DOWN TO THE MAIN SHOPPING PLAZA OF THE MAMMOTH MALL TO CONFRONT AND BE CONFRONTED BY THEIR PURSUERS... THE POLICE!



END

The Woman from Daredevil's past...

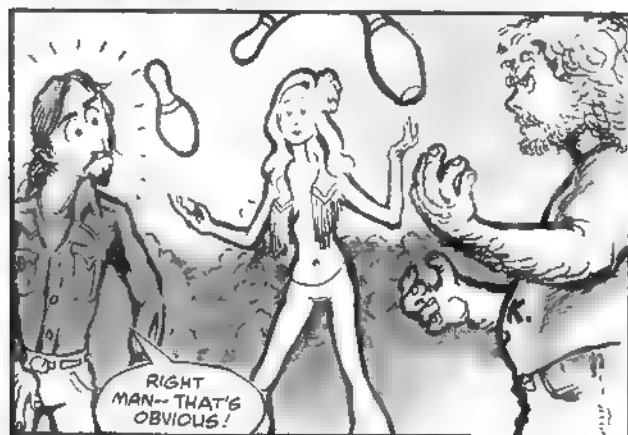
ELEKTRA

He'll never forget her... and
neither will you!



DAREDEVIL #168. On sale October 7.

A TENTH OF AN INCH DIFFERENCE, AND HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE SET APART, IF YOU WISH TO SEE IT BEFORE YOUR OWN EYES, HAVE NO THOUGHTS EITHER FOR OR AGAINST IT, TO SET UP WHAT YOU LIKE AGAINST WHAT YOU DISLIKE-- THIS IS THE DISEASE OF THE MIND... **SOSAN GANCHI ZENJI!**



IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS MUDDLE ONLY ONE PERSON RETAINS A STILL CENTER: THERE IS, FOR HER, THE BLISS OF CALM-IN-ACTIVITY... SUDDENLY SHATTERED BY--



THAT NIGHT, AFTER DINNER--

SO AFTER ALL THIS TIME, WE FIND OUT THE TRUTH

MAKES ME HUNGRY JUST TO THINK ABOUT IT!

OH, GEE, GOLLY, I'M SUCH A **PHONEY**, I KNOW IT! BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS LIKE-- THE PRESSURES I WAS RUNNING FROM! THE POODLES ON THE SKIRTS, THE HAIR DRYERS, THE **POM POMS!**

JEEZ KID, IT MUSTA BEEN HELL!

THERE WERE ALL THE SOCK HOPS, Y'KNOW YA HADDA HAVE A BRAND NEW PAIR OF WHITE SOCKS FOR EACH ONE, 'CAUSE IF THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY'D EVER BEEN WORN-- YOU'D DIE!

THEN THERE WAS CHEERLEADING PRACTICE-- THE COMPETITION FOR HEAD CHEERLEADER-- THE GOSSIPING ABOUT ALL THE OTHER GIRLS!

AND THEN THE SENIOR PROM, AND ME, **PROM QUEEN.**

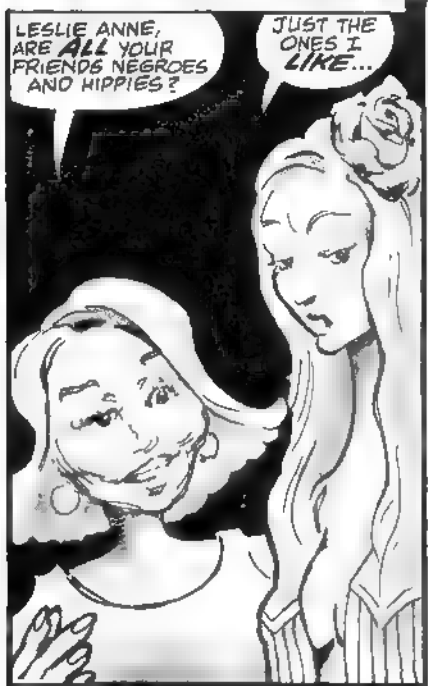
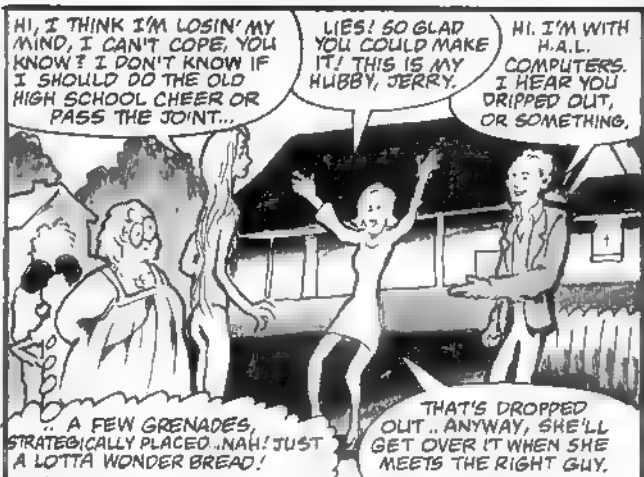
IT WAS THEN-- WHEN THEY HANDED ME THE ROSES-- I SAW IN MY MIND WHAT MY LIFE WOULD BE IN THE FUTURE. MARRIAGE, IT'S KIDS, MORTGAGE, KIDS, DOG AND A CAT, MIDDLE-AGED BOREDOM AND A YOUNG OLD AGE... SOMEBODY'D DECIDED WHAT MY LIFE WAS GONNA BE WITHOUT EVEN ASKIN' ME WHAT **I** WANTED!

HEY, SISTER, YOU GOT A **FAN** HERE! I ALWAYS WONDERED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING BETWEEN THOSE EARS BESIDES HAIR FOLLICLES!

SIGH! GEE, IT'S GOOD TO HAVE FRIENDS-- BUT WOULD YA STILL BE MY FRIEND IF I WAS **LESLIE ANNE?**

WHO

WOW, THAT'S HEAVY!



WE JUST LOVE
JOHNNY MATHIS AND...
HARRY WHATSHISNAME!

THEY'RE EVERYWHERE...
UNDERMINING THE UNDER-
PINNINGS OF SOCIETY,
DESTROYING THE UNITY
OF...

IF HE COMES
AT ME, I'LL THROW
HIM IN THE POOL,
AND THEN...

DON'T LET 'EM
GET TO YA, KID--
FAT'S WHERE
IT'S AT!



I GOT THE
ROPE!

LET'S GET
THE CAT!



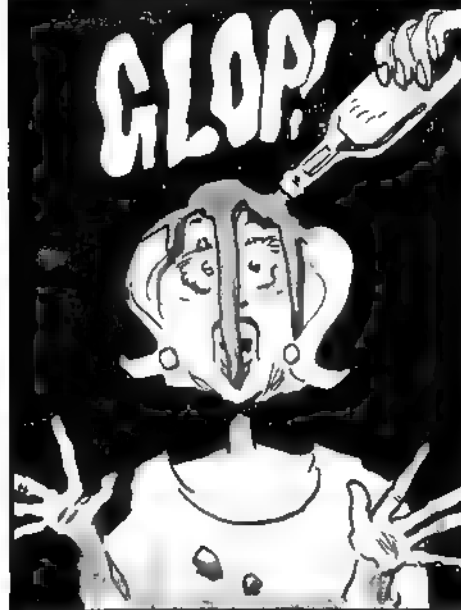
LIKE, AS SOON AS THE ANIMAL
DIES, YOU GET THESE INCREDIBLE
DEATH-DEALIN' BACTERIA THAT
START TO GROW, BY THE HUNDREDS,
SO WHEN YOU PUT THAT HAMBURGER
IN YOUR MOUTH
YOU'RE REALLY
EATING...



LESLIE ANNE,
SOMEDAY YOU'LL
THANK ME FOR
TELLING YOU
THAT YOU **MUST**
TURN YOUR BACK
ON THE PERVERSION
WITH WHICH YOU'VE
SURROUNDED
YOURSELF AND...



GLOP!



YOU MUST BE
CRAZY! YOU
PEOPLE ARE ON
DRUGS! YOU
PROBABLY PUT
DRUGS IN THE
BEER!



MOVE IT,
PEOPLE!





FOR THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'!



IN YOUR EAR, GENERAL ROMMEL!

ZOOH



.. HELL, THEY WON'T CATCH ME-- I'M A DYIN' MAN, NOTHIN' TO LOSE! 'COURSE SOME OF YOU MAY FEEL DIFFERENTLY..



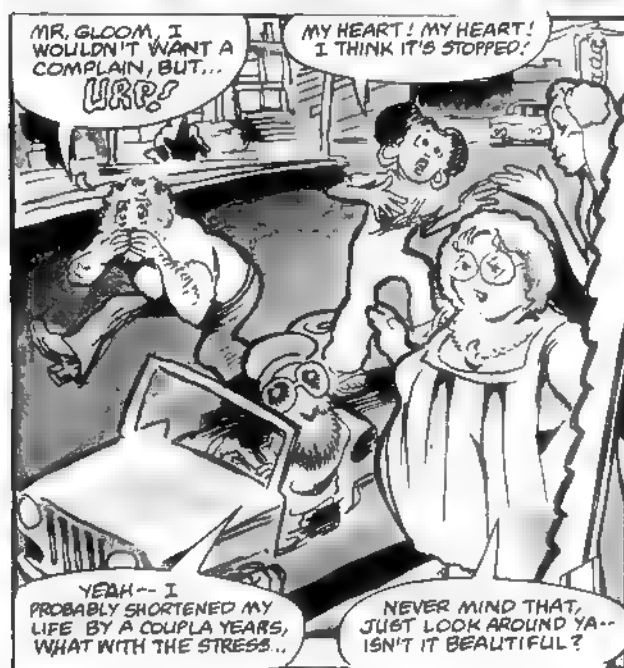
THEN:

WHERE 'N BLUE BLAZES DID THEY GET TO?

THERE'S PROBABLY A COMMUNIST HIDEOUT NEARBY...

OH, NO! NOT COMMUNISTS!

THEY'RE ALL AROUND-- COULD BE YOUR NEIGHBOR, OR YOUR BEST FRIEND!

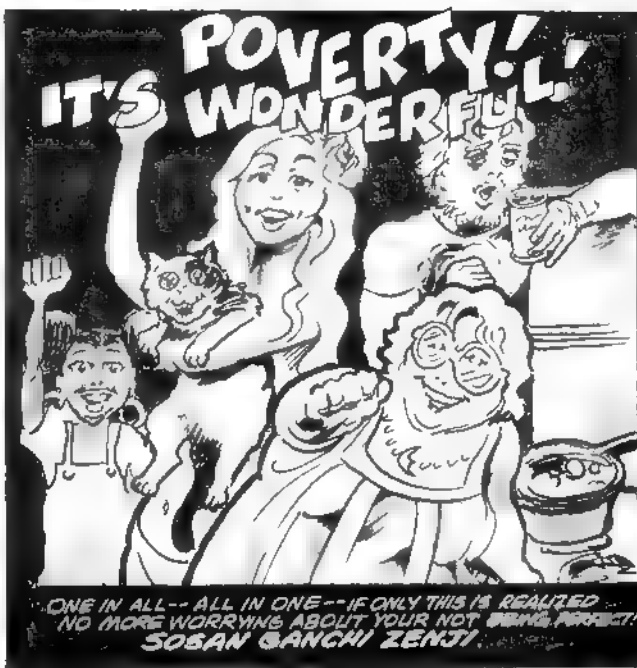


MR. GLOOM, I WOULDN'T WANT A COMPLAIN, BUT...
URP!

MY HEART! MY HEART! I THINK IT'S STOPPED!

YEAH-- I PROBABLY SHORTENED MY LIFE BY A COUPLA YEARS, WHAT WITH THE STRESS...

NEVER MIND THAT, JUST LOOK AROUND YA-- ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL?



POVERTY! IT'S WONDERFUL!

ONE IN ALL-- ALL IN ONE-- IF ONLY THIS IS REALIZED-- NO MORE WORRYING ABOUT YOUR NOT BEING PERFECT!
SOSAN GANCHI ZENJI

Wise Quacks

In her editorial in **HOWARD THE DUCK #5**, Editor Lynn Graeme penned a plea to "Save This Editor," begging your understanding for trying something daringly different for a comic magazine. Namely, she had artist Larry Fredericks do a collage cover depicting Howard as *Dracula* rather than the more typical, painted acrylic cover that graces most Marvel magazines. Lynn took a lot of slack for that cover even prior to publication, but Publisher Stan Lee and Editor-in-Chief Jim Shooter decided to stand behind her and let the cover see print, knowing that Marvel has never made it by supporting the status quo. Now your comments and criticisms are in on Lynn's little experiment. What do they tell us about us? About you? About the state of comic art in the 1980s? I dunno. Why don't I just let you speak for yourselves?

—Bill Mantlo

Dear People,

Save this editor? Why? Will she (like **HOWARD THE DUCK #1**) become more valuable with age? But seriously, folks... as a graduate of the "I-don't-know-anything - about - art - but - I - know - what-I-like" school of artistic appreciation, I have to say that the cover of **HTD #5** was one of the worst things I have ever seen Marvel publish. On the other hand, if it'll make you (or Larry Fredericks) feel better, I don't like the work of Pablo Picasso, either. I never could understand why it is that, when a third-grader paints like a third-grader it's junk, but when a grown man paints like a third-grader, it's a great work of art.

But enough griping from someone who can't even draw decent stick figures...

Bill P. Starr
897 Main Street #7
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Marvel,

Save this Editor? BULL! Hang this editor, maybe! The cover to **HTD #5** was the absolute pits!

Bryan Reeves
1813 Peach
St. Charles, MO 63301

Dear Lynn,

To tell the truth, I don't see what the big controversy is over the cover to **HOWARD THE DUCK #5**. It's a beautiful piece of artwork which manages to evoke more moods than just about any other cover I've happened across. But, of course, there will always be those who resist change (read: progress) with the mindless fervor of an antibody jumping on a virus

infection. Hopefully, **HTD** readers have a bit more sense than that particular breed of hairless ape!

Thomas Kalb
4411 Alan Drive #A
Baltimore, MD 21229

Dear Lynn,

Let's talk about the cover of **HTD #5**. Since I work in a comic store, I decided to take an unofficial poll of 20 regular comic buyers' opinion of Mr. Fredericks' cover. Nineteen of the twenty buyers polled hated it. One found it interesting but all wrong for the magazine.

As both a fan and a retailer, I understand the need for experimentation and change. Yet this cover seems all wrong for some of the most obvious reasons.

(1) Fredericks' depiction of Howard was not a good likeness of the magazine's central character.
(2) The collage effect, which might have been effective, looked amateurish.

(3) The cover was not a fair or accurate representation of the magazine's interior.

These factors make the magazine harder to sell for us retailers. Yet, fortunately, in the case of **HOWARD THE DUCK**, the high quality of the interior art sells the mag once it has been pointed out to the buyer. Mantlo and Golden are excellent on this mag. Keep them! And give Michael Golden a try at the cover. He deserves it!

Mark Steiner
2433 Bardstown Rd.
Louisville, KY 40205

The marvelous Michael Golden could take a crack at the cover or

the interior art of this or any other mag he cares to anytime he wants, if I had my way, Mark. Unfortunately, mumbling something about "exhaustion being the prelude to a nervous breakdown," Michael has chosen to remove himself from **HTD** for awhile.

—Bill Mantlo

Dear Lynn,

Personally, I liked the cover to **HTD #5**... for what it was. I'm not crazy about collage, but, of those I've seen, it was one of the best. As for taking risks, I am probably (and I'm not bragging) Howard's greatest and most devoted fan, and I'm all for it. Keep up the good work, and let's see some more of ol' Bongerhead!

D. W. Schuey
9419 Bristol Ave
St. Louis, MO 63114

Dear Duck Editor(s),

(1) The cover it stinks.

(a) It is unattractive and childishly drawn, as if executed by a right-handed person drawing with his left hand while blindfolded.

(b) It is utterly wrong in the packaging sense. The cover of a magazine should give some impression of what is to be found inside the magazine. If I hadn't known what **HOWARD THE DUCK** — THE MAGAZINE was like before seeing the cover of **HTD #5**, I might not have purchased this issue.

(c) Ideally, covers should be done by the same artists who draw the interior of the magazine. Better art is false advertising and worse art is counterproductive advertising. Why not have Gene Colan do the covers?

(d) The cover of **HTD #3**, by Jack Davis, was also inappropriate, for the same reasons. While Davis is a superb artist, he made no attempt to portray Howard as the character should appear. Davis' duck looked like a ventriloquist's dummy, counter to the image of Howard as a cartoony duck in a very real, very grim world.

(e) "Courage" is one thing. To suggest it, to try it, is fine. But look at your finished product before you go ahead. A realistic clay or taxidermy duck on your cover, made to look like Howard, might be nice. Otherwise, please reserve your courage for content rather than style of presentation.

(2) Please put the address people should send letters to on the masthead of *Wise Quacks*. If this is our page, why should we have to search for the address to which we're supposed to mail our comments?

(3) Comments on **HTD #5**: Interior art was mostly excellent, other than the illo accompanying your "Interview with the Duck." If I recall correctly, Michael Golden used to draw THE MI-

CRONAUTS. If so, this issue confirms my previous high opinion of his work. His characters come alive on the page. I enjoy poring over his characters' features, examining their faces for a key to their emotions. Here Michael did a great job of making Howard seem even more cartoonish and the background even more grim (I have seldom seen *Dracula* look so scary), thus tripling the impact of this mag's main premise — Howard as a stranger trapped in a world he never made. Though I am not that impressed with the portrait of Bill Mantlo on the letters page, the artist should have gotten credit. Who drew it?

(4) The writing. Last issue and this one were often genuinely funny and damned good as legitimate stories. Mantlo seems to be getting comfortable with the character. The satire still seems a little obscure and "safe" and impersonal, but I'm glad that there's some satire in this mag still. I can't begrudge the puns in **HTD #4**, given the preponderance of puns permeating two previous issues of the color comic — the "Star Waugh" satire and **HTD ANNUAL #1** — but I hope you don't come to place too much dependence on puns.

I like the sexual humor you're getting into the book, by the way. I know that's an area of controversy. The ending of the first story was natural, logical, gutsy and funny. Howard, in *Dracula*, seemed based on someone, but I'm not sure who. I was wondering how you'd get rid of *Dracula* without killing him.

(5) *Interview with the Duck*: Very poor. The introduction was redundant. It contradicted the reality you've established of Howard living in Cleveland and poverty-stricken. He's not anymore, you know. Also, the Marvel Universe-Marvel Comics connection, shown at various times in the pages of **THE FANTASTIC FOUR**, has made it pretty clear that, while Marvel has been granted certain rights by the heroes, it does not own or foot the bills for them. The humiliation of being menaced by everyday things was the only new point. Not a bad one, but it could prove limiting.

(6) *Captain Americana*: Moving story, but seemed to be a compilation of vignettes. I wasn't that thrilled with the hard-luck opening. The kids were satirical, sarcastic, amusing and annoying. The father was an intriguing kind of villain, a la Colonel Flagg on M*A*S*H. The exit from Earth was very well handled.

Looking forward to *Duckworld* and hoping that *Street People* isn't an irrelevant backup feature.

Dana A. Snow
Los Angeles, CA

Gene Colan may be doing an **HTD** cover or two, Dana, as soon

as he can dig himself out from under the burden of pencilling **HOWARD THE DUCK**, the **HULK** magazine and **DR. STRANGE!**

—Bill Mantlo

Dear Lynn Graeme,

I really liked your *Interview with the Duck* in **HTD #5**. Unfortunately, the accompanying illustration didn't do it justice. As for the cover, to be frank, it looks more like a preschooler's scrawling than Picasso.

Glad to see mention of *Devo* and *Talking Heads* in **HTD!** The *Heads'* "Animals" should become Howard's theme song.

Also glad to hear that you're going to print a story about Duckworld. Such an exploration of Howard's world of origin could well be the most important story you'll ever publish. I've always been surprised that you didn't attempt it sooner.

Mark Lungo

7705 Ragall Parkway
Middleburg Hgts., OH 44130

Better late than never, Mark. So how'd ya like it?

—Bill Mantlo

Dear Lynn,

The cover? (Check One):

✓ Loved it
Hated it.

Robin Kincaid

7 Wall Street
Coventry, CT 06238

Dear Lynn,

What did I think of the cover to **HTD #5**? Do ducks like cigars? I absolutely loved it! I think it was great the way the artist used simple forms, contrasting colors, and textures to bring his portrayal of Howard across. It was a winner!

I was so inspired by this issue that I took a crack at drawing Howard myself. What do you think? Do I get a Duckmasters Cigar?

Ike Wilson

13910 Benson Road
Edmond, OK 73034

All of us at the Marvel Magazine Bullpen like your drawing, Ike. Which reminds me, **HTD** is still looking for artists to try out for its audition page. The work of David Simms appears this issue. Simms is an artist from Canada. His work has appeared in *Cerebus*. All artists whose work is published on the auditions page will be paid and (who knows?) maybe it could even lead to a shot at drawing comics the Marvel way! We're looking for people who like to draw!

—Bill Mantlo

Gang,

Having read five issues of the new **HOWARD THE DUCK** magazine, I feel that I have maintained my silence long enough.

While there are certainly some strong points, some reforms are sorely needed. The place to start is the cover. You might begin by restoring the original **HOWARD THE DUCK** logo (the color comic version). The almost-ridiculous design of the original logo seemed to accurately reflect Howard's predicament, reminding us that Howard's world is one of total absurdity. The present logo lacks that key element, and just looks silly.

Secondly, the content of the covers must change. We have, so far, been "treated" to a slick snapshot-style cover, a pink nightmare, a corny Christmas scene, a "concept" cover, and a drab collage. Please return to the use of covers that accurately reflect what one would hope to find within the pages of **HTD**.

Next, please stop the use of nude, topless, suggestive, etc., scenes with Bev. Don't get me wrong. I'm not one of those prudish types who goes around yelling "Obscene!" It's just that scenes like these are detrimental.

A major concern has been the large amount of inconsistencies that have been occurring, such as the Gem Key becoming the Cosmic Key, and Claude Starkowski suddenly changing to Claude Starkowitz. These do not actually disturb the continuity of the stories, but they're the sort of slip-ups that just shouldn't be happening.

Lastly, I would submit a plea for some multi-issue continued stories, rather than the isolated one or two per issue that we've been seeing up to now. Bill seems to be embarking on this, leaving us eagerly expecting the *Duckworld* continuation in **HTD #6**.

Oh yes, and I guess it goes without saying that I would love to see Howard in color again.

Paul Lukas

41 Namkee Road
Blue Point, NY 11715

Dear Duck-Folk,

Today I picked up **HTD #5** and, as usual, I enjoyed every bit of it. Bill, you are one of the finest writers in comicdom today. Your *Drakula* was an hilarious yarn. I laughed so much my sides they ached and my heart it went pitter-pat (and you can bet your liquid-paper I wasn't watching *Felix the Cat*). Aside from the writing, the art was also fantastic. Michael Golden's duck was Howard!

Joe Christiano

20225 Cohasset Street
Canoga Park, CA 91306

rrrrriigghhteeooooo!

—Bill Mando

Dear Bill & Co.,

HTD #5 was something different. It was excellent. It was fine Howard. I was afraid our fowl might be mellowing out, but this issue showed that Howard retains

his anger and frustration. The stories were humorous and thoughtful, something they haven't been for awhile. They're the best stories you've done and I hope you continue to progress. *Drakula* was clever and Michael Golden's art was the best this mag has seen. But *Captain Americana* was even more impressive. It was startling, but funny. I expect readers to be divided over its merits, but I want to see other stories as daring as this one. For the first time since **HTD #1**, I'm looking forward to the next issue.

Mike Moore

1310 Osage
Bartlesville, OK 74003

And now before closing, we'd like to present a short, though important message from Ms. Carol Bellamy...

Dear Marvel Readers,

With all their super powers, Spider-Man and the rest of the Marvel gang are powerless against diseases like polio, measles, and rubella. These diseases can cripple or even kill. But, they can also be easily prevented with painless vaccinations. In most states (including New York), it's the law: NO SHOTS, NO SCHOOL! For more information on immunization, call the Immunization Hotline at (212) 349-2664. Outside New York City, call your local Health Department.

Stay Healthy!

Carol Bellamy

President

New York City Council

And it behooves everyone reading this to take her advice to heart and make sure you've had your vaccinations — and that your younger brothers and sisters have likewise. We can't stress this enough, really. There's no excuse for not having your shots — not in this day and age. One, two, three and it's over... painless and permanent protection against those diseases. Think about it.

—R.M.

NEXT ISSUE: A story so daringly different that you'll be talking about it until **HOWARD THE DUCK #10!** Just Howard and Bev trying to communicate with each other and themselves (with a little help from some surprising guest-stars) on a rainy night in Alabama! Think you can take the tension? If so, be here for *Motel in Mobile* in **HOWARD THE DUCK #9!** A landmark decision!

And while you're waiting, why not send your landmark letters on this ish to:

HOWARD THE DUCK
Marvel Magazine Group
575 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022



NEXT ISSUE! A DOUBLEHEADER!



THE DUCK FACES
DOOM AT THE DEADLY
CLAWS OF THE BAYOU
BEAST--**BLACK TALON!**
**DO-DO THAT VOO
DOO** BY **BILL
MANTLO** AND
GENE COLAN.

AND: HOWARD DONS
THE GREGARIOUS GARB
OF THE CHEAP DUCKTective--
DIRK BYRD, IN SEARCH OF
AN EVIL TWIN-CRANIUMED
CRIMINAL (US) WHO STALKS
THE STREETS IN SEARCH
OF WIDE COLLARS! **THE
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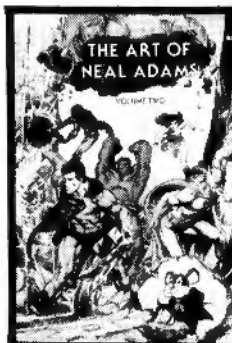
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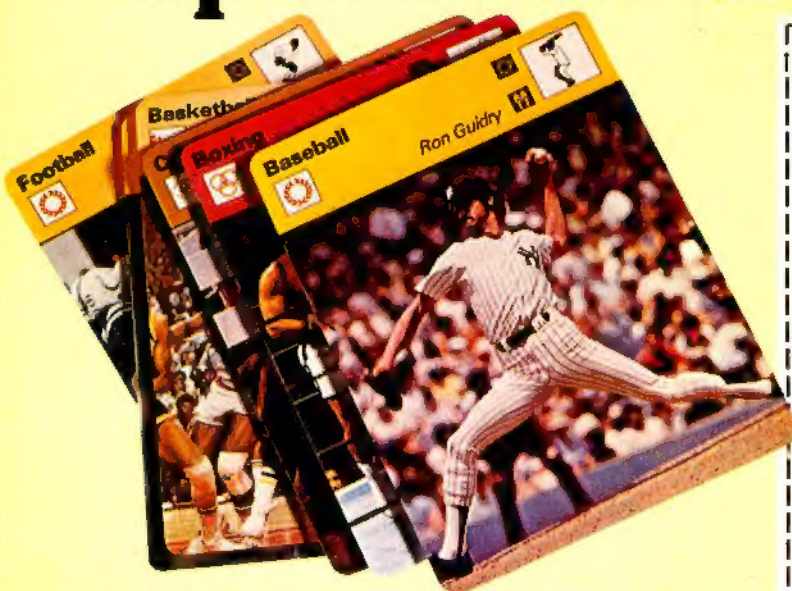
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